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Reportage on GATT Trade Talks in Brussels

Asian Nations Issue Warning

BK0312141690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1359 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Brussels, Dec 3 (AFP)—Asian nations made strong warnings at the opening of GATT trade talks here Monday that any trade deal would have to take account of the interests of developing countries.

Indonesian Foreign Trade Minister Arafin M. Siregar, speaking on behalf of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), said failure to reach a satisfactory accord would trigger the decay of an open world trade system.

Earlier, Arthur Dunkel, general secretary of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), emphasised the need to give special consideration to developing countries of Latin America, Asia and Africa, and the emerging democracies of Eastern Europe. He said ministers needed to make political decisions for the common good rather than individual advantage, and to "waste not a single minute in political shadow-boxing and mutual recriminations".

And Pakistani Commerce Minister Malik Muhammad Naim Khan said the week's GATT talks needed an accord which would compensate Third World countries for the previous exclusion of agriculture and textiles from GATT rules.

Mr. Siregar listed several areas where ASEAN was alarmed to see little progress—in agriculture, textiles, market access, anti-dumping, and the trade in services. He said ASEAN, representing Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Indonesia, was prepared to take major political risks in the interests of free trade. "But regrettably, these contributions have been met with a lack of enthusiasm by our major trading partners," he said. Mr. Siregar also said developing countries had to be allowed to use industrial subsidies for "social and economic development", and not be subject to excessive protection of intellectual property rights such as patents.

Singapore's Minister of State for Trade and Industry, Mah Bow Tan, called on the European Community (EC) to remove the main obstacle in the GATT conference by agreeing to deeper cuts in the subsidies it pays to its farmers. He called on developed countries to show "political will" to break the impasse, notably by not trying to use anti-dumping rules "as a protectionist instrument and harassment" against international trade.

The Asian ministers all stressed the importance of GATT's most favoured nation (MFN) rule, under which any trading benefit conferred on one GATT member must be extended to all. The United States has rejected the extension of this rule to the services sector, on the grounds that it needs an exclusionary right to protect itself against the protectionism of other countries.

Pakistan's Minister Khan said Asian countries insisted that textiles be included in GATT after a reasonable interim period, thus gradually doing away with import quota protections in developed countries. He also warned against attempts to extend the number of articles defined as textiles which could be subject to quota limitations.

Farmers Rally Against Talks

OW0312215290 Tokyo KYODO in English 1514 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Brussels, Dec. 3 (KYODO)—More than 25,000 farmers from the European Community, Japan, the United States and several other nations Monday rallied against global trade liberalization talks opening here which they fear might destroy their livelihood.

The March, organized by the Committee of Professional Agricultural Organizations, was aimed at delegates who have gathered for the scheduled final week of Uruguay Round trade talks being held under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

In a meeting held before the rally, Mitsugu Horiuchi, head of Japan's biggest farmers' union, the Central Union of Agricultural Cooperatives (Zenchu), said the trade talks posed a threat to farmers' livelihoods. "We'll not allow groups and multinational companies to benefit from cuts in agricultural support by sacrificing farmers," Horiuchi said. He also reiterated his group's strong opposition to opening Japan's rice market, saying he wants to see Japan maintain its ban on rice imports to secure supplies of the staple food in Japan.

Elimination of agricultural subsidies and other protective measures has been the most contentious issue at the four-year round of world trade talks.

The trade negotiations, being attended by some 2,500 delegates from 107 nations, are aimed at mapping out new rules on free trade in agriculture and 14 others sectors.

Thai Minister Warns of Failure

BK0412040590 Bangkok THE NATION in English 4 Dec 90 p A1

[By Peter Maitri Ungphakon reporting from Brussels]

[Text] Thai Commerce Minister Amaret Sila-on yesterday warned the European Community that unless a commitment is made to reduce agricultural subsidies significantly, the beleaguered Uruguay Round of world trade talks "will be a complete failure."

His statement was in line with the position taken by the Cairns Group of 14 agricultural exporting nations, which includes Thailand. The group had earlier warned that unless the European Community becomes more flexible on agriculture by the end of today, the Uruguay Round would collapse.

In his formal address during the opening session of the ministerial meeting of 107 nations participating in the Uruguay Round, Amaret appealed to "human decency". He said farm subsidies in developed countries were depressing world prices and depriving 30 million members of Thai farming families of adequate income.

Amaret made his statement as the four-year Uruguay Round, due to be concluded at this week's ministerial meeting remained in crisis because of the failure of the EC on the one hand, and the United States and Cairns Group of middle-sized agricultural exporting nations on the other, to agree on how to reduce farm subsidies. As he spoke, an estimated 25,000-30,000 European farmers were marching through Brussels in protest against the attempt to reduce the subsidies of the Common Agricultural Policy.

EC officials, meanwhile, sought to play down the differences between their proposals and those of the United States and the Cairns Group. A spokesman for Ray MacSharry, EC farm commissioner, said important technical aspects of Brussels' proposal for domestic supports to be reduced 30 per cent by 1996, compared to 1986 levels, still need to be explained.

Earlier yesterday, MacSharry responded to Cairns Group chairman Neal Blewett's call for flexibility from the EC by saying, "The only flexibility I have is in explaining in detail the impact that reductions in internal supports will have in export refunds and border protection."

Yesterday's opening session of a week of meetings intended as the conclusion of the round was presided over by King Baudouin of Belgium. In the formal speeches, delegate after delegate stressed the urgent need to break the deadlock that has threatened the talks.

Arthur Dunkel, director general of GATT, under whose auspices the Uruguay Round is being held, warned: "We have one short week to conclude our work. This leaves us with no option but to negotiate, negotiate and negotiate, and waste no time in political shadow boxing or mutual recrimination."

While recognizing that immensely difficult problems have to be tackled, Dunkel said: "We have in our grasp all the ingredients necessary for a substantial package of results." "We are in a real crisis," Amaret said. "This crisis has been looming for quite some time now and could have been avoided had there been enough political will, especially on the part of the major countries.

"Instead, what we see...is the lack of ability or willingness by a group of major trading partners to honour their obligation with respect to substantial progressive reductions in agricultural support and protection."

Amaret was clearly referring to the European Community although he did not name the bloc.

Amaret also criticized Washington, without naming the United States, for proposing that new rules for liberalizing trade in services would not need to be based on the principal of nondiscrimination known as "most favoured nation," that is at the heart of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade's regulations for trade in goods.

"When we talk about agriculture, we may be talking about different things in different countries," Amaret said. "In the developed world, one is likely to talk about protecting the living standards of farmers, which is usually high.

"But when I talk about agriculture, I am talking about human decency itself. I am thinking about 30 million human beings in my country whose lives have been in abject poverty, generation after generation, significantly as a result of agricultural practices and policies of some countries in the developed world which have resulted in a depression of world prices far below their legitimate levels.

"I am talking about 30 million human souls who sometimes cannot even provide enough food for their children, let alone basic education which could pull their children out of the vicious circle of poverty and ignorance.

"So their fate is doomed. To me, the Uruguay Round will be a complete failure if there is no agreement which could lead to a substantial rise in the standard of living for farmers in the developing countries including Thailand."

While expressing sympathy for the idea that protection is needed in order to help a country feel secure about its food supply, Amaret also indirectly called on the Japanese to open their markets to rice and other farm products.

Indonesian Minister's Remarks Cited

BK0412094690 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0852 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Brussels, Dec 4 (OANA-ANTARA)—Indonesia and other ASEAN countries fought for enhanced market access for their products on the first day of the final Uruguay Round held here from December 3 through 7, Trade Minister Arifin Siregar said Monday.

Market expansion is important for ASEAN nations and other developing countries because market access is often hampered by protectionist measures adopted by importer countries, the minister explained.

Arifin Siregar who spoke on behalf of the ASEAN states said that efforts to achieve a world trade liberalization faced problems on agricultural subsidies during the first day talks.

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Reporter on GATT Proceedings

BK0512040090 Bangkok THE NATION in English 5 Dec 90 p A8

[By Peter Maitri Ungphakon reporting from Brussels]

[Text] The first attempt to break the deadlock in agriculture that has thrown the Uruguay Round of world trade talks into crisis failed on Monday night. Some countries were speaking yesterday of a deadline of about 11.30 pm Bangkok time last night for the entire round to be rescued.

But participants continued to express a determination to strive for the breakthrough that they believe has to happen early this week, through a number of closed door meetings.

As the minutes ticked by, the determination appeared increasingly unrealistic. US Agriculuture Secretary Clayton Yeutter said yesterday morning the European Community still had not proposed anything that could be negotiated. At noon (6.00 pm Bangkok time) EC spokesmen insisted there was still no change in the EC's position. And yet delegates did still seem to think that a settlement is possible. Much hinged on a meeting between the EC's executive commission and EC trade ministers late in the afternoon, and on bilateral consultations going on all day.

Two features set the tone for the talks on Monday, the first day of the week-long ministerial meeting scheduled to wrap up the four-year round.

First was the emphatic proclamation by several important delegates that the round would have to be concluded on schedule this week despite the huge task that remains.

Agriculture is not the only problem. New rules to liberalize investment and trade in services, to provide protection for intellectual property internationally, and to tackle export subsidies and dumping remain highly controversial.

The European Community complained that other countries were putting too much emphasis on agriculture and called for efforts to continue in all the difficult subjects.

"This is the final, I repeat final, week for the Uruguay Round. There will be no extension. The time for rhetoric has passed. Now is the time for straight talk and bottom lines," said US Trade Representative Carla Hills as soon as she reached the podium to make her formal opening statement on Monday afternoon.

"Success this week means a dramatic growth in global prosperity; failure, a slide toward protectionism and the political instability it breeds," Hills said.

Most of the other important participants expressed similar feelings and intentions, if not always quite so emphatically, in their formal statements or in comments to the press. Some issues are bound to need further negotiation later, but the object is still to reach agreement on political commitments this week.

Second was the restraint participants were showing even though they still criticized each other. This contrasted with the stream of invective at the last gathering of Uruguay Round ministers in Montreal for the round's mid-term review two years ago. It may partly have been because of the personalities of some of the new delegation heads—Hills and Neal Blewett of Australia are not naturally so quick with the biting comment as their predecessors Clayton Yeutter and Michael Duffy, for example.

And recriminations could well become more bitter if progress has not been made by early this morning, Bangkok time.

An acceptable compromise? But for the time being participants appeared to be concentrating on the search for an acceptable compromise.

In the agricultural deadlock, the emphasis is no longer on the numbers—the EC's proposal to reduce internal supports by 30 per cent over the ten years 1986-96, and the earlier insistence by the United States and the Cairns Group of agricultural exporters for cuts of 75 per cent in internal supports and 90 per cent in export subsidies over the period 1991-2000.

Both US Under Secretary for Agriculture Richard Crowther and Australian Trade Negotiations Minister Neal Blewett, who chairs the Cairns Group, stressed that they were seeking specific, separate targets for reductions of protection and support in three areas: import barriers, domestic supports and export subsidies.

EC Agriculture Commissioner Ray MacSharry continued to argue for a broader commitment, based on the 30 per cent reduction in internal support, but without separate targets for import barriers or export subsidies.

MacSharry distributed detailed calculations showing that if world prices remain stable, the EC's offer to cut internal supports by 30 per cent could lead to cuts of up to 40 per cent on the export subsidies Brussels has been paying on wheat, for example. This would be achieved through the mechanisms that link the various forms of support under the EC's Common Agricultural Policy.

Yeutter rejected the calculations. He said yesterday morning that they still fell short of commitments in the separate types of farm programmes and suggested they were mathematical manipulations.

But as they prepared for further talks yesterday, delegates were busy examining whether this could be translated into a specific commitment on export subsidies from the EC and whether 40 per cent would be enough. Latin American countries in particular continued to insist on deep cuts in export subsidies in order to reduce the price-depressing effect the subsidies have on world prices and on exporting nations' incomes.

Also being studied carefully were possible alternative base years for calculating the subsidy cuts. The EC's proposal has been criticized because it takes 1986 as the base year. In that year, world farm prices were particularly low and therefore European and American subsidies were particularly high. The EC is said to have already reduced its domestic supports by about 15-24 per cent, depending on the method of calculation.

Arthur Dunkel, director general of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, under whose auspices the Uruguay Round is being negotiated, has suggested taking 1989 as an alternative base year. Although the EC has rejected this, some delegates believe an appropriately selected base year might offer a compromise.

Some countries, including Thailand, one of 14 members of the Cairns Group, are also quietly considering whether another previously sacred principle might be sacrificed. This is the opposition to "rebalancing", the EC's proposal that some protection or support currently set at low levels be allowed to rise in order to create a balance with those that are reduced from considerably higher levels.

Thailand's fear is that the EC's present 6 per cent on tapioca could be a prime target for raising—without the compensation that would normally be required under GATT rules—if rebalancing were accepted.

At Thailand's insistance, a sentence expressing opposition explicitly to rebalancing was put back at the last minute into ASEAN's official statement read out on Monday, although it was deleted by Indonesia from the version distributed at the meeting. Following Indonesia's suggestion, ASEAN is looking closely at the implications of accepting rebalancing in some form.

Thai Commerce Permanent Secretary Phatchara Itsarasena said on Monday Thailand's view on rebalancing would depend on the actual numbers committed. If, for example the tariff on tapioca could remain at 6 per cent forever while that on corn gluten, a rival feed ingredient exported mainly by the United States, rises from zero to 6 per cent with quotas controlling market share, then rebalancing might be acceptable, Phatchara said.

US Trade Representative Hills firmly rejected rebalancing in her formal statement, however, and on Monday evening, Neal Blewett told THE NATION the Cairns Group would "never" accept rebalancing.

While time is increasingly becoming the delegates' enemy, changes in the German government following Sunday's election do not appear to have helped either. Germany is one of the main opponents of large cuts in EC farm supports and it is not represented at ministerial level at the Brussels talks yet. In the end, however, new farm and trade ministers could mean a change in the German position, although the ruling coalition remains unaltered.

Meanwhile, attempts to break the deadlock continue in other areas. Australia, the EC, Hong Kong, and Canada have joined Switzerland, Japan and the United States in tabling lists of services sectors they are willing to liberalize, although vast gaps still remain.

Canada, Sweden, Switzerland and Japan have submitted a draft agreement for liberlizing financial services such as banking and insurance that would allow companies easier access to foreign markets under clearer rules, while preserving the power of central banks and other authorities to protect the interests of bank account and insurance policy holders.

Developing countries, who have repeatedly rejected previous proposals on financial services, have not commented on the proposal yet. Bank of Thailand Governor Wichit Suphinit, who is in Brussels for the talks, was scheduled yesterday to consult with colleagues from the formal group of Southeast Asian central banks, which also includes Sri Lanka and South Korea.

ASEAN Meeting on Cambodia Opens in Malaysia

BK0512035690 Bangkok THE NATION in English 5 Dec 90 p A3

[By Atthawibun Sisuworanan]

[Text] Senior officials from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations yesterday began five days of intensive discussions in Kuala Lumpur to map out a common strategy to help push the Cambodian peace process now deadlocked, sources told THE NATION yesterday.

The meeting coincides with another peace move in Paris by the French and Indonesian foreign ministers, the co-chairmen of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia (PICC). The ministers are reportedly trying to convince Cambodian leaders gathering there to compromise and give peace a chance.

Those gathering in Paris include the leader of the resistance Prince Norodom Sihanouk, Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan, former Premier Son Sann, Phnom Penh Foreign Minister Hor Namhong and Prince Norodom Ranariddh, Sihanouk's son.

The warring Cambodian factions, fighting to take control of Cambodia, agreed in September to a United Nations' administration proposal for an interim authority for Cambodia but their bickering has blocked the UN's role there.

A senior official at the Foreign Ministry, who asked for anonymity, said the senior officials meeting (SOM) in the Malaysian capital is to last until Friday or Saturday.

The Foreign Ministry's permanent Secretary M.R. Kasemsamoson Kasemsi and Chief of the Political Department Sarot Chawanawirat, who left Bangkok for Kuala Lumpur on Monday, are representing Thailand at the meeting.

The major concerns of the ASEAN officials are how to exert ASEAN's influence in a way that would help break the deadlock, the official said, adding that ASEAN needs to play a stronger role in the search for peace.

ASEAN has been side-lined since the five major powers of the UN Security Council began bargaining for a compromise among themselves in January. The Soviet Union backs the government in Phnom Penh, while China and the United States provide arms and materials for the resistance coalition.

The sources said the situation now has reached the stage where there is increasing erosion in suport from the world community for the tri-partite resistance coalition government because of the Khmer Rouge. And adding to the problem is Phnom Penh's rejection of the UN interim administration.

The sources acknowledged that domestic pressure has been mounting lately against the governments supporting the Khmer Rouge's presence within the resistance coalition.

The developments have already given rise to a renewal of fighting inside Cambodia and blocked a plan of the PICC to reactivate its coordinating committee by the end of this month, the source said.

The PICC coordinating committee is scheduled to meet on Dec 25 in Paris to prepare a final draft of the Cambodian peace agreement based on the Perm Five's paper. However, the committee has been inoperative due to wrangling by the Cambodian factions.

"The threat directly effects ASEAN politically and we have to react," the official said but declined to elaborate.

The meeting in Kuala Lumpur would also discuss the final draft of a political solution from the five permanent members of the UN Security Council "to see if there would be anything to add from ASEAN's point of view," he added.

Regional Human Rights Group Reports Violations

BK0312031190 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 3 Dec 90 p 2

[Text] Thailand has come in for heavy criticism in a number of areas concerning alleged human rights violations from the Regional Council on Human Rights in Asia which has also called on the Thai Government to grant political asylum to exiled Burmese students.

Council chairman Benjamin Jeyaretnam said the council had met in Bangkok for its two-day Eighth General Assembly which ended yesterday. He said the council had received reports on violations of human reights in ASEAN countries including Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, the Philippines and Indonesia.

The case of dissident Burmese students illegally living in exile in Thailand was discussed and it was agreed that the Thai Government should grant them political asylum.

Human rights lawyer Thongbai Thongpao, who also attended the meeting, said if those students were given the political asylum status, they would be taken care of by such international organisations as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

The same status should also be given to those who wish to be resettled in third countries.

Other issues raised were:

In Thailand.

—The prosecution of 80 Santi Asoke Buddhist members in gross violation of freedom of religion.

—The prosecution of nine Buddhist monks in Suphan Buri Province for their efforts to restore an abandoned monastery.

—The deprivation of citizenship by retroactive Decree No. 337 (1972) concerning the nationality.

—The displacement of the people in Laem Chabang fishing villages in Chon Buri and Wang Nam Yen District in Prachin Buri.
—Salt farming in Northeastern provinces, and.
—The continued increase of child prostitution and child labour.

In Indonesia.

—The continued detention and maltreatment of 40 East Timor students after their arrest in October 1989 for pro-independence demonstrations.
—The executions of death sentences of communist suspects after they had been held in prison for more than 20 years.
—The arrest of the university students in Bandung and Jogakarta curtailing academic freedom and expressions.

In Malaysia.

—The continued use of the Internal Security Act.
—The threatened displacement of 10,000 farmers and fishermen in Gelang Patah in Johor to provide for the construction of a bridge and other related development between Singapore and mainland state of Johor.
—The continued control over the media and its use to give the National Front government an unfair advantage in the October general elections.

In the Philippines.

—The growing policy of repression adopted by the present Philippines government regarding peaceful assemblies as shown by the appreciable rise in the number of individual arrests during public demonstrations and rallies. These are during protests against the continued presence of American military bases in the countries, oil price increases, demands for wage increases and other related issues.

It is reported that the number of people "disappearing" after being arrested has been increased. During the 10 year period of 1975 to 1985 during the Marcos regime, about 882 people disappeared after being arrested. Meanwhile, about 345 people are reported as having disappeared in 1986 to 1990 in the Cory Aquino regime.

In Singapore.

—The continued use of the Internal Security Act.
—The exploitation of foreign workers.
—The decision of the Government to grant increased military facilities for US forces.

According to Mr Jeyaretnam, the council resolutions will be handed to the ASEAN governments as well as the UN Human Rights commission in Geneva.

Japan

Soviet Friendship Group To Share POW Documents

OW0512065890 Tokyo KYODO in English 0603 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Tsuruoka, Yamagata Pref., Dec. 5 KYODO—The Soviet head of a bilateral friendship group signed a private agreement Wednesday promising to provide documents on 546,000 Japanese prisoners of war held mainly in Siberia and used as forced labor after the end of World War II.

Besides a list of prisoners, the agreement stipulates that the Soviets will hand over diaries written by them and all available related papers, totaling four million pages, as well as other materials. It also pledges that the Soviets will try to arrange judicial reviews of punishments imposed on the detainees as prisoners of war.

The agreement was signed at the office in Tsuruoka of the All-Japan Former Internees Association by Aleksey Kirichenko, director of the International Cooperation Department of the Soviet Academy of Sciences' Oriental Studies Institute. He signed the pact in his capacity as chairman of the Soviet-Japan Mutual Understanding Association.

Former prisoner Rokuro Saito, who heads the Japanese association, signed it on behalf of the servicemen's group, which hopes it will enable them to seek compensation and help with arrangements to tend graves and arrange visits to graves by relatives. Anatoliy Prokopenko, director of the archive of the Soviet Council of Ministers, also attended the signing.

With Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev scheduled to visit Japan next April, the pact—the first such bilateral agreement at the private level—is expected to help settle one of the unresolved legacies of the war that have hindered an improvement in Japan-Soviet relations.

Japanese Foreign Ministry officials said in Tokyo, however, the delivery of the lists to a private Japanese organization would not be regarded as a formal exchange between the two nations, adding that Tokyo will ask Moscow to provide the documents through official channels.

The Soviets only recently admitted that 46,082 Japanese died in labor camps in Siberia and other places where they were being held. Only the remains of a few former senior commanders have been returned to Japan.

In Wednesday's meeting, Kirichenko submitted to Saito a previously unreleased list of names and burial places of 1,444 of the dead prisoners. They had been working on construction of the Bam railroad at Tayshet, northwest of Lake Baykal, and many of them died in a record cold wave that hit Siberia in the winter of 1945 to 1946.

Saito said he would like to swiftly deliver the list, which includes many of his fellow prisoners, to their relatives. Prokopenko said he hopes the move will be the first step "to wipe out the black stain" left on bilateral ties.

In June, Kirichenko led a Soviet group of academics and Red Cross officials and for the first time publicly touched on the topic in a Tokyo symposium. The Soviet Union had previously claimed that only 3,957 prisoners died. It had long refused to provide details of the detention that followed its 1945 advance into then Japanese-held territories such as Manchuria and southern Sakhalin. A bilateral neutrality pact was still in effect at that time.

He revealed official data saying that between August 9 and September 2, 1945, Soviet troops captured 594,000 Japanese imperial army soldiers, including Chinese, Korean, Mongolian, and Malay draftees. The non-Japanese were later released. Nearly 16,000 of the Japanese captives died of injury or illness soon afterward, before they could be sent to labor camps. Japan surrendered on August 15.

He said a group of more than 12,000 were sent to Mongolia, Moscow's communist ally, to engage in labor there. The remaining 546,086 Japanese soldiers were taken to Soviet labor camps, mostly in Siberia, to work on railways and other construction projects, logging, and other types of physical labor. Less than half of them, some 230,000 are estimated to be still alive in Japan.

Kirichenko in the June symposium cast doubt over past statements by Soviet historians seeking to justify actions against Japan, and said Soviet troops began invading then Japanese-held areas in the Far East hours before officially declaring war on Japan.

Most of the prisoners were repatriated by 1950, but some of them, whom Soviets convicted on "anti-Soviet" charges, remained until 1956 or later, when the two nations restored diplomatic relations.

Japanese officials and historians have charged that the detention was against the war-ending potsdam declaration, which urged the early release of prisoners of war to enable them to return to a normal life.

Kirichenko, a former secretary to Yevgeniy Primakov, an aide to Gorbachev, said on Soviet state-run television in late November that Moscow would hand over to Japan a list of the dead prisoners and the locations of their graves by the time Gorbachev visits Tokyo next spring.

Foreign Ministry Sets Up Office for Soviet Aid

OW0512111390 Tokyo KYODO in English 1100 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 5 KYODO—The Foreign Ministry has established a liaison office to deal with private sector individuals or groups wishing to extend humanitarian assistance to the Soviet Union, officials said Wednesday.

Officials said the decision to set up the office was taken in response to the increasing number of public inquiries as to what can be done to alleviate the shortages of food and medicine in the Soviet Union.

The office, which will be operated by the Foreign Ministry and the Japanese Red Cross, will dispense information on what types of aid are most needed and the best way of getting that aid to where it is most needed, officials said.

The Japanese Government has already decided to provide medical assistance to the Soviet Union by helping alleviate chronic shortages of pharmaceuticals. But policy-makers have been skeptical about the prospect of extending government-funded food aid or commodity loans to Moscow.

Japan's warming response to implicit Soviet requests for aid follows a growing consensus among its Western allies on the need to help the Soviet Union.

Germany, which is leading the international aid effort, has argued that a stable Soviet Union is an essential precondition for the success of Eastern Europe's economic and political reforms.

Japan, meanwhile, is intent on improving the atmosphere of Tokyo-Moscow relations ahead of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's scheduled visit here in April, in the hope of achieving progress on the two countries' territorial dispute over a group of Soviet-occupied islands off Hokkaido.

Soviet Ambassador Calls on Japan for Assistance

OW0412214390 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Soviet Ambassador to Japan Chizhov gave a lecture in Tokyo on 4 December. He said that now that economic confusion is creating political tension in the Soviet Union, it expects full-scale assistance from Japan before President Gorbachev visits here in April next year.

Moreover, on the territorial problem, which is a pending issue between Japan and the Soviet Union, he said that although it is impossible to settle the issue at a stroke, it is important to create conditions that are acceptable to both countries for the conclusion of a peace treaty.

U.S. Construction of Foxholes Raises Complaints

OW0412225590 Naha NHK Television in Japanese 0315 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Text] It has been learned that the U.S. forces are newly constructing foxholes for use in live ammunition firing exercises on the training area of Camp Hansen in Igei District of Kin Ward, which was involved in incidents of bullets straying into residential areas two years ago. Local residents are reacting strongly against this construction.

The site where the foxholes are being constructed is Range 5 at Camp Hansen. At present, a road leading to the site is being built.

There were a series of incidents of bullets straying into residential areas from Range 6 of the training area in Igei in October 1988. Range 5 where construction currently is underway is only 1 kilometer away from a residential area. The residents there feel uneasy and their protests are rising.

Kin Ward Township Assembly unanimously passed a protest resolution and a statement of views regarding the construction at an extraordinary session on 26 November, and plans to file a request with the prefectural government and Defense Facility Administration Agency.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Marine Corps public relations office admitted that the contruction of the foxholes at 31 locations—some of them in concrete—and an extension of a passage for the forest fire fighting force is underway and is due to be completed by February next year.

The office said that because the firing exercises on Range 5 will be directed at hills, there is no reason to be concerned about a possible accident.

Talks on Shipping Services With PRC To Open

OW0412141090 Tokyo KYODO in English 1247 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 4 KYODO—Japan and China will open negotiations on regular ferry service between the two countries December 11 in Beijing, the Transport Ministry announced Tuesday.

The talks will focus on Tokyo's request that Japanese shipping lines be allowed to operate two routes. China now operates two once-a-month routes from Shanghai to Kobe and Yokohama.

Japan will also ask that Japanese shipping firms be allowed to open offices in China to conduct business, the ministry said.

The two countries held their first round of negotiations in December 1988.

Sakamoto: Kaifu Hopes Korea Trip 'Turning Point'

OW0512110890 Tokyo KYODO in English 1054 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 5 KYODO—Top government Spokesman Misoji Sakamoto said Wednesday Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu hopes to make his visit to Seoul a "turning point" in relations, but declined to say whether Tokyo is prepared to meet demands to immediately abolish its practice of fingerprinting Korean residents.

"I think Prime Minister Kaifu is aware that his visit to South Korea will be a very important turning point in opening a new era of Japan-Korean relations," Chief Cabinet Secretary Sakamoto told a regularly scheduled news conference.

Asked whether Tokyo is prepared to meet demands to waive the fingerprinting of Korean residents while a new identification system is being developed, Sakamoto said he could not say anything concrete. "I think the Korean side expects us to do our utmost to resolve difficult issues," he said.

Last week Kaifu told Komeito Chairman Koshiro Ishida, leader of Japan's second largest opposition party, that the government would continue fingerprinting Korean residents until a new means of identification is in place. Ishida discussed the matter with South Korean President No Tae-u earlier Wednesday in Seoul. No told Ishida he hopes Kaifu will meet the expectations of the Korean people.

Kaifu is slated to fly to Seoul on January 9.

Koreans form the largest ethnic minority in Japan. Many of the 680,000 Korean residents were brought here during Japan's colonial rule of Korea from 1910-1945 for forced labor, or are descendants of the laborers.

The fingerprinting requirement has been the focus of a movement to combat discrimination against Koreans in Japan.

All foreign residents over age 16 are required to carry with them at all times identification cards with their fingerprints.

Saudi Economist Calls for More Investment in Gulf

OW0512094190 Tokyo KYODO in English 0920 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 5 KYODO—A Saudi economic expert has called for more Japanese investment in the Persian Gulf, saying business goes on as usual amid growing hope for a peaceful resolution of the region's crisis.

Abd al-Rahman al-Jafar [name as received], secretary general of the Gulf Organization for Industrial Consulting, said people in the Middle East have started to hope for a peaceful settlement now that the United States and Iraq have agreed to direct discussions.

"The region is now in not a very normal situation, but the governments (in the region) have shown great prudence and statesmanship in keeping the overall business environment frienly," he said. "Economic activity is normal and no major new projects or expansions have been put on hold in five of the seven Gulf states," al-Jafar said in a recent interview with KYODO NEWS SERVICE. The two Gulf states where economic activity is abnormal, to put it mildly, are Iraq and Kuwait.

Al-Jafar is in Tokyo for a symposium on the Persian Gulf crisis and the Middle East economy. His organization promotes industrialization and investment in the Gulf region. He called the Persian Gulf crisis an "unfortunate interruption" of economic growth in the region but said the Gulf states, once the crisis passes, will not be isolated from the economic changes sweeping the post cold war world.

The Gulf nations are still seeking economic diversification and hope to enter into more joint ventures with foreign corporations, especially in such fields as petrochemicals and energy source development, he said. "Eight Japanese companies have been awarded contracts from the Gulf states worth 1.63 billion U.S. dollars even after the August 2 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait," al-Jafar said.

Japanese investment in the region, however, amounts to only around 3 billion dollars, far less than the 50 billion dollars the Gulf states have invested in Japan, according to the Saudi economic expert. "While higher oil prices may give a one-off economic boost to the region, the Gulf states will become better customers for Japanese goods as well as good partners of a variety of joint ventures" once things return to normal, al-Jafar said.

While recently increasing oil prices have brought higher income to the oil producing countries, al-Jafary said these countries also have mounting expenditures.

Saudi Arabia, for instance, has to support the multilateral troops stationed in the region as well as provide financial assistance to neighboring countries hit hard by the crisis. Further economic and technological assistance from developed nations would be welcome, he added.

Reduction in Size of Armed Forces 'Expected'

OW0512081790 Tokyo KYODO in English 0639 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 5 KYODO—The government plans to review the nation's 14-year-old basic defense program in a move expected to lead to a reduction in the size of the Japanese armed forces, government sources said Wednesday.

This is the first time the government has disclosed that it is considering moves to reduce the size of the military, after the easing of tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union in the fall of last year.

The sources said the policy review under the national defense program outline will take place from next April, when the next five-year medium-term defense plan begins. The outline is Japan's basic long-term strategic defense plan. Drawn up in 1976, it is the basis on which the government sets up a medium-term defense plan every five years.

The Japanese Government will make a complete review of the Ground, Maritime and Air Self-Defense Forces, including the military strength of the three forces, the formation of military units, warships, fighter planes and major military equipment, the sources said.

Most of the seven state ministers in the Security Council were quoted as saying they have agreed to review the national defense program outline.

The government will hold the Security Council on December 15 and 19 to prepare the final touches for next year's medium-term defense plan.

Meanwhile, Defense Agency officials have been puzzled by disclosures about plans for the defense program outline, saying that it is contradictory that the medium-term defense program is drafted in consideration of the review of the outline.

Kaifu Avoids Reshuffle Issue; Takeshita Cautious

OW0512081890 Tokyo KYODO in English 0649 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Niigata, Dec. 5 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu avoided making any definite comment Wednesday on speculation that a Cabinet reshuffle is in the works.

Kaifu was asked about the issue during a visit here to campaign for a ruling party candidate in a by-election for the House of Councillors. He answered only that he will devote all his energy to tackling important national and international problems.

There has been growing speculation that Kaifu will reshuffle his Cabinet later this month, possibly around December 20, after a supplementary budget for fiscal 1990 is passed by the Diet. The Diet is due to convene in a regular session next Monday.

Meanwhile, senior officials of three major factions of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] called on former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, still very influential within the LDP, to support an early Cabinet reshuffle, party officials said.

Kozo Watanabe of the Takeshita faction, Hiroshi Mitsuzuka of the faction led by former Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe, and Toshio Yamaguchi of the faction led by former Finance Minister Michio Watanabe agreed in a meeting that the Cabinet should be drastically reshuffled at the earliest opportunity.

After the meeting, the three LDP officials visited Takeshita and said there are many politicians who want to become Cabinet ministers and that it would be difficult to suppress sentiment for a Cabinet reshuffle before the end of the year.

Takeshita reportedly expressed a cautious attitude on the issue.

Kaifu on Domestic, External Issues

OW0512052490 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0300 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, discussing the possibility of a Cabinet reshuffle, a focal point currently at issue, has confined himself to saying that for the time being he will devote himself to resolving important domestic and external problems. He made the remark this morning at a news conference in Niigata. The prime minister is visiting Niigata to campaign in the House of Councillors by-election in the Niigata electoral district.

At the news conference, in reply to a question about the possibility of a Cabinet reshuffle within the year, Prime Minister Kaifu said:

[Begin video recording] There are a number of very important problems to be addressed. I intend to come to grips with each of them and want to devote myself to resolving domestic and external problems for the time being. [end recording]

Prime Minister Kaifu thus stressed his intention to devote himself to addressing pending problems for the time being. He stayed clear of giving a direct answer to the question about a Cabinet reshuffle.

Referring to the adoption of a UN Security Council resolution approving the use of force for the resolution of the Gulf crisis, the prime minister reemphasized that there is no change in Japan's desire for a peaceful settlement. He said he is studying how Japan should contribute to the Middle East on the basis of a three-party agreement among the ruling Liberal Democratic Party and opposition Komeito and Democratic Socialist Party. He added that he wants the understanding and cooperation of the people, thus indicating his plan to formulate a new package of measures for Japan's contributions to the Middle East while obtaining public approval.

Poll Shows Decline in Support for Kaifu Cabinet

OW0512103390 Tokyo KYODO in English 0950 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 5 KYODO—Support for the Cabinet of Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu has dropped to 52.1 percent from 59.3 percent in September, a KYODO NEWS SERVICE poll shows.

The proportion of those who do not support the Kaifu cabinet increased sharply to 40.1 percent from 27.7 percent, according to the poll, released Wednesday. Many voters polled expressed doubts about Kaifu's handling of foreign policy.

Analysts attributed the decline in support for Kaifu to an aborted bill that would have allowed the overseas dispatch of Japanese troops to assist in international peacekeeping operations. The bill was scrapped in the House of Representatives last month.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Misoji Sakamoto said he regrets the government failed to "obtain understanding" of the bill from the public. He added that the government will continue trying to win the people's trust.

Ichiro Ozawa, secretary general of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), said the decline in public support will have no major effect on the Cabinet because it still has the backing of a majority. An executive of the LDP faction to which Kaifu belongs said he hopes a new U.N. cooperation bill will increase support for the Cabinet.

A senior official of the faction led by former Finance Minister Michio Watanabe said Kaifu's lack of leadership in response to the Persian Gulf crisis caused anxiety among the people.

The Kaifu Cabinet scored high public support ratings of 63.0 percent in June and 59.3 percent in September, according to previous KYODO polls.

The December poll, taken Saturday and Sunday, covered 3,000 of Japan's 90 million eligible voters, of whom 1,993 or 66.4 percent responded.

Among those who did not support the Kaifu cabinet, 26.9 percent, up from 20.6 percent in September, said they cannot expect much of Kaifu in regard to foreign policy. The poll indicated that 38.1 percent of supporters said there is no appropriate person to replace Kaifu.

The LDP, however, showed a gain in public support to 55.4 percent from 52.3 percent in the poll. The Japan Socialist Party, the No. 1 opposition party, was supported by 20.0 percent, up from 18.6 percent in the September survey. Komeito, the No. 2 opposition party, received 3.3 percent of voter support, against 4.0 percent in September. The Japanese Communist Party scored 1.8 percent, down from 2.1 percent, the Democratic Socialist Party 1.3 percent, down from 2.3 percent, and the United Social Democratic Party 1.4 percent against 1.2 percent in the previous poll.

JSP Chairwoman on Rice Policy, Aid to USSR

OW0412122390 Tokyo KYODO in English 1133 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Niigata, Dec. 4 KYODO—Japan Socialist Party [JSP] Chairwoman Takako Doi said Tuesday that ending Japan's ban on rice imports would "annihilate" the nation's agriculture and threaten the survival of some farming communities.

Here to campaign for a JSP candidate seeking a vacant seat in the House of Councillors, Doi reiterated her staunch opposition to rice import liberalization and said Japan must remain self-sufficient in the production of staple foods.

In a JSP executive meeting the same day, the nation's largest opposition party issued a communique in which it accused the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) of planning to "settle the rice issue" in Japan-U.S. talks after local elections are held next spring.

Touching on aid for the Soviet Union, which is suffering from a shortage of food and medicine, Doi urged local government offices to start collecting food, medical goods and money to help the Soviet Union deal with the current crisis.

Former Minister Abe Ready for Political Comeback

OW0312181490 Tokyo KYODO in English 1413 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 3 KYODO—Shintaro Abe, who heads the ruling Liberal Democratic Party's [LDP] second largest faction, said Monday he is ready to make a political comeback following his long bout with poor health.

The former foreign minister, who has been in and out of the hospital since an operation on his bile duct in May last year, told reporters at his home in Tokyo that he plans to begin his political resurgence with an appearance at a faction meeting on Thursday.

Abe's political profile improved as a result of his meeting with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev in Moscow last January and with U.S. President George Bush in Washington in June. But the 66-year-old Abe was nearly written off by political observers as a viable candidate to become Japan's next prime minister after he was hospitalized again last September. Despite his apparent recovery, aides say Abe will need to return to the hospital for periodic checkups.

In his first appearance before reporters since early October, Abe also renewed his support for Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu. But he said he plans to keep a close eye on the moves of the LDP factions toward Kaifu's expected cabinet reshuffle later this month.

Labor Leader Calls for International Unification

OW0512040590 Tokyo KYODO in English 0335 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 5 KYODO—Japanese labor leader Akira Yamagishi called on Wednesday for the unifying of the international labor movement.

Yamagishi, head of the Japanese Private Sector Trade Union Confederation (RENGO), put forth the proposal in an address to the regular three-day executive committee session of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU). About 150 committee members from around the world attended the meeting which opened at a Tokyo hotel.

Yamagishi urged the international confederation to draft a strategy to cover East European unions in order to develop the international labor movement.

East European unions belong to the pro-communist World Federation of Trade Unions which is on the brink of collapse after communist regimes fell last year.

ICFTU Secretary General John Vanderveken said the meeting was an historic occasion, held for the first time in Asia and the Pacific since it was set up in London in 1949.

Czech and Polish trade unions have joined the ICFTU and two South African trade unions will participate soon, Vanderveken said.

The ICFTU comprises 99 million members from 101 countries. It is holding a regular executive committee meeting in Tokyo to discuss the Persian Gulf crisis and East European political reform.

Hashimoto Supports New World Financial Order

OW0412052490 Tokyo KYODO in English 0432 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 4 KYODO—Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto called Tuesday for cooperation by other countries in realizing Japan's joint proposal, at the ongoing global trade talks, for the formation of a new world organization regulating financial services.

Hashimoto told a press conference after a cabinet meeting that financial services should be overseen separately from other areas because of their unique characteristics. "I believe other countries would agree to this idea," he said.

In a joint move with Canada, Switzerland, and Sweden, Japan proposed to the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks the formation of a new world regulatory body to oversee the enforcement of agreements in this field under the world trade watchdog, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). Hashimoto also suggested that the Group of Seven (G-7) industrial nations could meet at the beginning of next year.

"The G-7 has been held periodically once every several months. So, it is not surprising it will be held early next year," Hashimoto said, referring to the grouping of the world's seven biggest economic powers—Japan, the United States, Germany, Britain, France, Italy, and Canada. But he said the schedule of the likely meeting has yet to be finalized, partly because of Britain's call for a meeting of the European Community (EC) on the European monetary union (EMU) ahead of the G-7. The date of the EC conference has also not been decided yet. Hashimoto added that the G-7 meeting should not focus on a specific issue, such as financial aid to the Soviet Union, but should examine a wide range of topics.

There is speculation that the G-7 get-together will focus on financial assistance to the Soviets to salvage the country's troubled economy, with the United States softening its opposition to such aid.

Japan, for its part, has been against the provision of financial aid to the country due to a territorial dispute over four islands off Hokkaido, northern Japan, which were occupied by the Soviets after World War II.

Company To Set Up Cement Factory in DPRK

OW0312142090 Tokyo KYODO in English 1027 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Osaka, Dec. 3 KYODO—Rinkai Cement Co., a cement importer, said Monday it will set up a cement factory in North Korea to export the commodity to Japan.

A formal contract with North Korean authorities will be signed in early January, the company said.

Rinkai is the first Japanese company to open shop in North Korea and follows recent moves toward normalizing diplomatic ties between the two countries, industry sources said.

The factory will be built in Haeju and produce 1.5 million tons of cement per year from 1992, the company said.

Production facilities will be brought from Japan. Total cost of the project will be about 25 billion yen, it said.

ASEAN Requests Help To Build Infrastructure

OW3011141490 Tokyo KYODO in English 1306 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] Fukuoka, Nov. 30 KYODO—Business leaders from Southeast Asia at an annual meeting with Japanese counterparts Friday called on Japan to help them in building infrastructure and increasing exports.

Representatives from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) at the 16th ASEAN-Japan business people's meeting discussed the strengthening of economic ties with Japan at private levels.

Winding up the two-day meeting, they then requested Japan to help them to create a better business environment to attract foreign direct investment, such as from Japan. They also reported that in their countries, students who come home after studying in Japan tend to prefer U.S. or European companies, rather than Japanese firms operating locally.

In many Japanese companies, opportunities of promotion for local people are fewer than in U.S. or European companies, and this discourages students, said the representatives, stressing the need for more opportunities.

Takashi Ishihara, chairman of the Japan Association of Corporate Executives (Doyukai), which supported the meeting, said he believes that the ASEAN business environment is improving year by year, and that he hopes these nations will become a good market for advanced products exported from Japan as quickly as possible.

The participants closed the annual meeting with an agreement to hold the next meeting in Singapore a year from now.

Bank Predicts 1991 Growth Rates for G-7 Nations

OW3011141090 Tokyo KYODO in English 1246 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 30 KYODO—An average economic growth rate for the Group of Seven (G-7) industrial nations in 1991 will slow down to 1.6 percent from estimated 2.6 percent in 1990, the Bank of Tokyo predicted Friday.

In its forecast for the 1991 world economy, the bank said the combined current deficit of the G-7 nations will rise by 6.1 billion dollars from 1990 to 89.2 billion dollars, due mainly to declining domestic demand in the United States and Britain.

According to the forecast, the U.S. economy is expected to post negative growth of 0.8 percent during the October-December period of 1990, and will continue to decline to record another drop of 0.6 percent in the January-March period of 1991. Higher crude oil prices and deflationary effects from enforcement of the federal budget cut plans are cited as negative U.S. economic factors. U.S. economic growth in 1991 will then slow down to 0.3 percent from 1 percent in 1990, the report said.

For Germany, the report predicted that the real economy of former West Germany will remain firm, although the pace of growth will slow down to 3 percent from 3.8 percent in 1990. Strong domestic demand will continue to support the country, but the ailing economy of former East Germany will limit the growth rate of Germany as a whole to about 2 percent over 1990, it said. Germany's 1991 current surplus is also predicted to shrink with increasing imports to about 26.7 billion dollars from 45 billion dollars in 1990.

In contrast, the report predicted the economies of France, Italy, and Japan will remain relatively steady.

Among developing nations, Middle Eastern economies are expected to have the larger growth rate of 3.8 percent in 1991 compared with 2.4 percent in 1990, while Asian economies will remain unchanged, it added.

The following are 1991 forecasts for some of the G-7 countries, with real economic growth in percentages, current account balances in billions of dollars, and 1990 figures in parentheses.

	Real Growth Rate	Current Account Balance
Japan	3.5(5.8)	36.7(35.2)
The United States	0.3(1.0)	-95.9(-102.3)
Germany	3.0(3.8)	26.7(45.0)
Britain	0.9(1.5)	-24.2(-28.5)
France	2.5(2.7)	-6.0(-5.5)
G-7	1.6(2.6)	-89.2(-83.1)

Proposal on Opening Procurement to Foreign Firms

OW0112111390 Tokyo KYODO in English 1004 GMT 1 Dec 90

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 1 KYODO—Japan has proposed opening to foreign bidders government-financed public works projects worth more than 15 million special drawing rights (SDRs), or about 2.6 billion yen, government sources said Saturday.

The sources said the proposal was made at multilateral negotiations on government procurement under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

SDRs are part of a nation's reserve assets in the International Monetary Fund (IMF). They are designed to supplement the reserves of gold and convertible currencies, or hard currencies, used to maintain stability in the foreign exchange market.

Negotiations over the proposal are to be resumed in parallel to the final ministerial meeting of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks, which are scheduled to open in Brussels on Monday, they said.

The sources said proposals by the United States and the European Community (EC) call for countries with 4.5 million SDRs to open their government procurement to foreign enterprises.

While the U.S. and the EC call for the opening of procurement not only by the federal and local government as well as government- related agencies, Japan insists that liberalization be limited to state procurement. It was not immediately clear whether a compromise solution could be reached at the forthcoming meeting, they said.

The sources said Japan set the ceiling at a higher level than that of the U.S. and the EC because of higher construction costs.

Under the current agreement, countries are required to open procurement of goods worth 130,000 SDRs or more by their central governments to foreign bidders.

Largest Offshore Oil Field Begins Operations

OW0512085590 Tokyo KYODO in English 0810 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Niigata, Dec. 5 KYODO—Japan's largest offshore oil field off Niigata started operation Wednesday, its joint operators reported.

The oil field, located about 4 kilometers off Nakajo Town in Niigata Prefecture, was developed jointly by Mitsubishi Gas Chemical, Niigata Oil Exploration Corp., Japan Petroleum Exploration Corp., and Japex Offshore Ltd. at a cost of about 30 billion yen.

The companies said production will start at one well with daily production of 200 kiloliters. Ten more wells will be bored by 1992 to raise daily output to 1,100 kiloliters of crude and 300,000 cubic meters of natural gas.

When production goes into full swing, Japan's self-reliance in crude oil supply will rise to 0.4 percent from the present 0.3 percent, the companies said.

Japan's domestic crude oil production at nine existing fields in Niigata and Akita Prefectures totaled 650,000 kiloliters last year.

Vehicle Sales Decline for First Time in 21 Months

OW0312152690 Tokyo KYODO in English 1021 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 3 KYODO—Japan's domestic sales of new cars, trucks, and buses in November posted the first year-on-year drop in 21 months, in the first sign that the country's booming auto market may be slowing down, an industry association said Monday.

The Japan Automobile Dealers' Association said new motor vehicle registrations in the month fell 2.7 percent from a year earlier to 499,563 vehicles, the first decline since February 1989, when potential buyers delayed their purchases prior to the introduction of the consumption tax in April in place of the higher commodity tax.

The association attributed the downturn to higher interest rates on car loans, shortages of parking lots, and uncertainty over the Persian Gulf crisis, which combined to depress buying interest.

The poor sales in the latest reporting month brought to about 5.51 million vehicles cumulative sales from January to November, making it difficult for annual sales to top the targeted 6 million mark, industry sources said.

An official at a major automaker said, "it will be almost impossible to achieve the target, unless sales in December manage a considerable improvement."

The auto industry had expected sales to breach the six million vehicle line this year, compared with 5.56 million vehicles posted in 1989.

Sales of small cars, which accounted for about 70 percent of total sales, dropped 11.6 percent to 304,699 vehicles, the first double-digit decline since July 1984.

In contrast, sales of larger passenger cars—those with 2,001 cc or larger engines—were almost unhurt, jumping 60.1 percent to 51,700 vehicles.

Sales of trucks rose 4.7 percent to 140,277 vehicles, and those of buses soared 39.5 percent to 1,887.

Mitsubishi Motors Corp., Mazda Motor Corp., Isuzu Motors Ltd., and Hino Motors Ltd. posted gains in sales, while seven companies, including Honda Motor Co., were on the minus side.

Sales of imported automobiles registered an 8.9 percent year-on-year increase in November to 16,186 units.

Farming Population Drops 10.4 Percent in 5 Years

OW0112004890 Tokyo KYODO in English 2352 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 30 KYODO—Japan's farming population has dropped 10.4 percent in the five years since 1985, providing fresh evidence of a restructuring taking place in agriculture, the government reported Friday.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries said in its latest national census on agriculture and forestry that the number of Japanese engaging in agriculture stood at 17.3 million on February 1 this year.

Japan's farming population has been on the decline since the ministry began conducting such a census in 1950 so as to promote global agriculture statistics proposed by the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization.

The national census, conducted every five years and the ninth of its kind, also shows the number of farmhouses falling 9.3 percent over the period to 3.83 million.

Of the total number of farmers, those aged 65 or more accounted for 20.0 percent, up from 17.1 percent in 1985, confirming the increasing unpopularity of agriculture among young Japanese.

The survey also found that leased farmland expanded a strong 28.3 percent to 411,000 hectares, a phenomenon which ministry officials traced to a flow of farmland owned by small-scale farmers to big-scale farmers.

Small-size farm owners, faced with aging workforces and prompted by income other than agriculture, are increasingly offering their land to large-scale farmers looking to improve their productivity and efficiency, they said.

The survey substantiated this view, showing the portion of farmers with farmland of less than 3 hectares on the wane, but that of those with more farming space on the increase.

Experts on agriculture say the trend will continue for some time as Japanese farmers now face competition from low-priced imports due to the gradual liberalization of the nation's agriculture market.

Government May Cut Taxes on Leather Products

OW0212114990 Tokyo KYODO in English 1040 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Text] Brussels, Dec. 2 KYODO—Japan may offer to cut its maximum tariff on leather products from the current 60 percent to 40 percent by fiscal 1997, government sources said Sunday.

The proposal has been prepared for presentation at the five-day ministerial meeting of the Uruguay Round multilateral trade talks opening Monday. The meeting is intended to wrap up the talks, being held under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

The European Community has been demanding increased access to the Japanese market for shoes and other leather products. But the proposal may not satisfy the EC, which is calling for a maximum tariff of below 20 percent in Japan's two-tier tariff quota system. Under that system, higher tariffs are imposed on imports that surpass a fixed quota—4,120,000 pairs of leather shoes, for instance.

If the EC accepts the offer, the higher tariff on leather shoes will be lowered in steps in five years starting in fiscal 1992 to 40 percent from the current 60 percent. Japan may also offer to increase the quota for leather shoes subject to lower tariffs by 17 percent to 4,820,000 pairs in fiscal 1991, the sources said.

The tariff quota for the leather of cattle, sheep, and goats would be boosted by an average 15 percent in the fiscal 1991 under the proposal under consideration.

The government adopted the current tariff quota [TQ] system in fiscal 1986, scrapping its previous import quotas, which were criticized as being inconsistent with GATT.

While the tariffs under the new import restriction mechanism have remained unchanged, the tariff quotas for leather shoes have been hiked by an average annual 13 percent, and by 7.5 percent for leather. But the EC, led by Italy, has been calling for the abolition of the tariff quota system in hopes of boosting exports to Japan.

Tokyo has refused to remove the TQ system, but announced late last month its intention to lower the tariffs and increase the quotas.

Reportage on Nakayama Attendance at GATT Talks

WA0311191390

For reportage on the visit to Brussels by Foreign Minister Nakayama, including reports on his participation in the Uruguay Round of GATT negotiations and a meeting with U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills, please see the International Affairs section of the 4 December West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Mongolia

MPRP Statement Stresses Ties With USSR

OW2211215390 Beijing XINHUA in English 1530 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, November 22 (XINHUA)—The current 5th plenary session of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party (MPRP) adopted a statement today, stressing the country's relations with the Soviet Union.

The statement said the current various anti-Soviet tendencies in Mongolia completely run counter to the fundamental interests of the country and the people, warning that Mongolia will gain nothing if its relations with the Soviet Union continue to worsen.

The special party congress held in April had made conclusions to the mistakes, distortions or even tragic incidents emerged in the past Mongolian-Soviet relations, it said, adding that the Mongolian-Soviet summit in Moscow this spring had opened up prospect for further reforming the two countries' relations on the basis of equality and justice.

The MPRP Central Conmmittee believed that the new political and economic difficulties the two countries are now in, and the accumulated problems from the past which have not been resolved promptly, are not the result of the policy directing the two parties' relations, the statement continued.

It said that the mistakes in the past should not be exploited as excuses for opposing the good-neighborly relations with the great neighbor, publishing various slanders against the Soviet Union, resorting to demagogy and poisoning social atmosphere.

Mongolia's friendship and cooperation with all nations, and in the first place with its neighboring countries, are of great significance for the success in its reform and the development of social economy.

Moreover, the statement believed that the contents of friendship and cooperation between Mongolia and the Soviet Union will be further enriched in a favorable prospect.

Pact on New Trade Mechanism Signed With USSR

OW0512051490 Ulaanbaatar MONTSAME in Russian 1436 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, 3 Dec (MONTSAME)—An agreement on changing to a new mechanism in trade and economic relations and a payments agreement have been concluded between the MPR [Mongolian People's Republic] and USSR Governments. The documents were signed in Moscow by S. Bayar Baatar, MPR minister of trade and industry, and K.S. Katushev, USSR Minister of Foreign Economic Relations.

The signing of the agreements was attended by N. Mishigdorj, MPR ambassador to the USSR, and other officials.

In accordance with these agreements, both sides have decided that beginning 1 January 1991 all trade and other transactions will be conducted in convertible currency and in line with existing international market prices.

Small Hural Adopts Statement on Soviet Appeal

OW0512085690 Ulaanbaatar MONTSAME in Russian 1440 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, 3 Dec (MONTSAME)—At Saturday's sitting, participants in the ongoing session of the

MPR [Mongolian People's Republic] State Small Hural discussed the USSR Supreme Soviet appeal to the parliaments of all countries, and adopted a statement for the press in its support.

Members of the State Small Hural approved the 9 October 1990 USSR Supreme Soviet appeal to the parliaments of all countries, particularly to countries conducting nuclear weapons tests, and expressed all-round support for any efforts and steps leading towards a universal and complete ban on nuclear weapons.

Movement Seeks Nationalization of Tungsten Mine

OW0312135390 Ulaanbaatar MONTSAME in Russian 1448 GMT 1 Dec 90

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, 1 Dec (MONTSAME)—The "Citizens' Movement" at the joint Mongolian-Soviet "Erdenet" enterprise has released a statement demanding that the State Small Hural and the MPR [Mongolian People's Republic] Government annul the 22 November 1973 MPR-USSR intergovernmental agreement on the establishment of the joint "Erdenet" mining and concentrating enterprise.

The Citizens' Movement also demanded that "Erdenet" be turned into a national enterprise from 1991 and that construction of the sixth stage be halted.

In case these demands are not fulfilled, the Citizens' Movement intends to stop the operations of the enterprise insofar as production [words indistinct] correspond with the interests (?of our) [words indistinct] since the creation of the "Sovmongolmetall" joint stock association supplied the Soviet Union 9.5 million tons of high quality fluorite ores, [words indistinct] tin 1,800 tons [passage indistinct].

If "Erdenet" continues to remain at the current level of equipment and technology, the enterprise will become unprofitable [words indistinct] movement in its statement also envisaged measures which will be implemented if the joint mining and concentrating combine is nationalized, including repayment to the Soviet Union of funds allocated for the expansion of the enterprise.

Talks End With PRC on Opening Border Crossing

OW0512041990 Ulaanbaatar MONTSAME in Russian 1438 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, 3 Dec (MONTSAME)—The first session of talks between representatives of the MPR [Mongolian People's Republic] and the PRC on questions of opening a border crossing has ended here. An agreement was reached at the session on the basic provisions of a draft Mongolian-Chinese bilateral agreement on opening a border crossing.

The second session of the talks will be held in Beijing during the first quarter of 1991.

Goods in Short Supply Not To Leave Country

OW0412135090 Beijing XINHUA in English 1305 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, December 4 (XINHUA)—Mongolia has banned some commodities in short supply from being taken or sent out of the country through international postal packets or with foreign travellers, the "PEOPLE'S POWER" newspaper reported today.

The General Office of Customs stated that this included cars, motorcycles, T.V. sets, videos, recorders, refrigerators, washing machines, cotton textiles, wool fabrics, childrens clothes, rice, wheat, and oil. The ban came into effect on December 1.

The newspaper reported that electrical equipment for family use and daily necessities had been in short supply even though the government had arranged imports to meet the demand. Complaints had been made that there had been panic-buying by foreigners.

New Rural Party 'Sharply Criticizes' MPRP

OW0512062290 Ulaanbaatar MONTSAME in Russian 1433 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, 3 Dec (MONTSAME)— The Party of Mongolian Herdsmen and Farmers (PMHF), established a few days ago, has released a report in which it accuses the State Small Hural, the Office of the President, and the MPR [Mongolian People's Republic] Government of not defending the fundamental interests of herdsmen and farmers. The PMHF report, published in the newspaper UG (organ of the Mongolian Social-Democratic Movement and Social-Democratic Party) also sharply criticizes the ruling party the MPRP [Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party].

According to the PMHF, the composition of the new MPR Government, formed as a result of general elections held under the pressure of new democratic forces in the country, is not capable of establishing genuine democracy [narodovlastiye]. It has been noticeable recently that the MPRP, using the term "ruling," has been trying to restore its former dictatorship. The people's confidence that the MPRP will be renewed and that state stability will ensue is not justified. All of this is the (?main reason) for the formation of the MPHF [passage indistinct] political system under the dominance of one party, for deepening restructuring processes in the country.

Hongor Outlines New Party Program Emphasis

OW0312135590 Ulaanbaatar MONTSAME in Russian 1430 GMT 1 Dec 90

[From the 1 December press review]

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, 1 Dec (MONTSAME)—UNEN carries the conversation its correspondent had with O. Hongor, member of the Presidium and Secretary of the

MPRP [Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party] Central Committee. O. Hongor emphasized that the recent Fifth MPRP Central Committee plenum recognized the need to direct preparations for the 20th party congress and the 70th founding anniversary of the MPRP toward deepening the party's renewal. O. Hongor noted that the MPRP will continue to consistently defend the interests of the working people and link the country's future with the creation of a socialist society, viewing this as a normal trend of development of human civilization. It considers implementation of national democratic tasks as its most immediate aim.

Concerning the MPRP's theoretical and ideological basis, he stressed that along with using everything of value in the teachings of Marx, Engels, and Lenin, the party attaches great significance to developing the spiritual wealth of our country and of the whole world.

MPRP Group Seeks Unity of Democratic Forces

OW0412044790 Ulaanbaatar MONTSAME in Russian 1500 GMT 1 Dec 90

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, 1 Dec (MONTSAME)—A "For Democracy" club [kruzhok] has been formed within the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party [MPRP] and has addressed an open letter to party members.

It says that despite hopes for change in the MPRP it has not achieved qualitative changes in its renewal.

The MPRP continues to strive to hold in a single stream [words indistinct] views and interests, contradictions [words indistinct] although it is clear that the MPRP consists of various forces, it is basically divisible into two sides—those who support democracy and those who oppose it. Democratic forces are still at odds whereas the opposing side has united, holding sway in all levels of party organizations, particularly in the leadership, where it continues to control the apparatus, the document notes.

[Passage indistinct] to unite on the basis of a specific political platform and turn into an organized force.

North Korea

State Adminstration Council Shuffle Announced

SK0512035190 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2100 GMT 4 Dec 90

[The DPRK Central People's Committee Issues the Decree on the Personnel Shuffle of the State Administration Council—read by announcer]

[Text] The appointments by the DPRK Central People's Committee have been determined as follows;

1) Comrade Kim Chang-ho shall replace Comrade Paek Se-yun as chairman of the Committee of Electronics and Automation Industry.

2) Comrade Kim Hak-sop shall replace Comrade Kim Chang-ho as minister of post and tele-communications.

[Signed] Kim Il-song, president of the DPRK.

[Dated] 4 December 1990, Pyongyang.

Japan To Amend Friendly Area List Rule

SK0412144290 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1300 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] The Japanese Foreign Ministry has decided to remove the regulation printed on Japanese passports that excludes the DPRK from the list of friendly areas. The decision will be effective 1 April 1991. The Japanese Foreign Ministry made a public notice of this in its official bulletin on 1 December.

Korean Musicians Union Chairman Issues Statement

SK0512052790 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2200 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Statement by Kim Won-kyun, chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean Musicians Union, on 2 December—read by announcer]

[Text] Statement by Kim Won-kyun, chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean Musicians Union:

All of the musicians in the northern half of our Republic are not able to control their soaring anger over the atrocity committed by the fascist clique, in which they arrested and detained the representatives of the South side's promotion headquarters of the pannational rally, who had participated in the talks recently held in Berlin to form a pannational federation for the reunification of the fatherland.

As is already known, on 30 November, the South Korean law enforcement authorities committed an act of violence by arresting three members of the South side's promotion headquarters of the pannational rally including Rev. Yi Hae-hak, and forbidding them to speak as soon as they had descended from the airplane. They had returned to Seoul after participating in the tripartite talks of the North, South, and overseas in Berlin to form a pannational federation for reunification.

This is clear evidence that the South Korean authorities regard the meeting itself between fellow countrymen for the reunification of the fatherland as a crime and that they are openly rejecting this.

For the South Korean ruling bunch to arrest and detain the South Korean patriotic figures for reunification under the pretext of the vicious law just because they met with the representatives of the North side and overseas side in a foreign country to discuss the issue of reunification, at a time when the significant "traditional concert for reunification seeing 1990 out" in which musicians of the North and South will participate together is near at hand and when our Pyongyang National Musical

Troupe's visit to Seoul is right before our eyes, is truly a grave act in which we are not able to suppress our astonishment and anger.

Up until now, our musicians have been making thorough preparations and have been yearning for the day to perform in the "traditional concert for reunification seeing 1990 out" in Seoul before the fellow countrymen of the South singing songs of reunification and national songs, and have been waiting for the day to leave for Seoul. This will be the second performance by our musicians since its participation in the pannational reunification music concert which was held in Pyongyang. Such a music concert was held for the first time in 45 years since the division of the fatherland.

However, the incident that occurred in South Korea makes it inevitable for us to think about various things.

Art and fascism are incompatible. It will not be appropriate to hold the reunification music concert amid the warlike atmosphere of Seoul where patriotic reunification figures are being arrested recklessly just because they had met with us at a time when the reunification music concert with the musicians of the North and South participating is near at hand. Also, sentimental music melodies cannot be performed well in that kind of violent, facist place and where not one musician will want to sing.

The South Korean ruling bunch must correctly consider the sentimental world of the true musicians aiming for reunification and give serious thought to this.

If the South Korean authorities hope to smoothly hold the reunification music concert which is finally being held, and do not want to receive denunciation from the whole nation as an obstructor of reunification and as a splittist hoodlum, they must release the patriotic figures for reunification who have been arrested and detained unreasonably as soon as possible.

I believe that the favorable or unfavorable holding of the reunification music concert which is scheduled to be held in Seoul is wholly dependent upon the attitude of the South Korean authorities.

Our Pyongyang National Music Troupe will go to Seoul as scheduled if the South Korean authorities release within a few days the patriotic figures for reunification who have been arrested and detained unreasonably. However, we clearly state that if this is not realized it will be inevitable for us to consider the issue of the participation of the music concert.

We will watch the attitude of the South Korean authorities.

[Dated] 2 December 1990 Pyongyang

Group Condemns Arrest of South's Delegates

SK0512121790 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1012 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Pyongyang December 5 (KCNA)—A spokesman for the Central Committee of the Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland issued a statement today denouncing the South Korean authorities for detaining the three delegates of the South side who had participated in the Berlin tripartite working-level talks regarding the pan-national alliance for reunification.

Noting that they are persecuting patriotic messengers of reunification who are active in South Korea for an earlier independent and peaceful reunification at a time when multi-channeled dialogue and contact are under way between the North and the South, the statement says this is an anti-national, anti- reunification criminal act of throwing a wet blanket over the nation's ardent desire and will for reunification and going against the turbulent flow of the reunification movement.

The South Korean fascist clique not only try hard to block their fellow countrymen from meeting with each other for reunification in the homeland but incriminate even their meeting in a far away alien country, the statement says, adding: This vividly shows once again that loudmouthed as they are about "dialogue" and "reunification," they seek, in actuality, only confrontation and division.

If the South Korean rulers really want dialogue and reunification, the statment demands, they must immediately refrain from their reckless suppression of the patriotic democratic forces which are fighting for national unity and reunification, unconditionally and immediately release the patriotic messengers of reunification unwarrantably arrested this time and all the political prisoners including the visitors to the North who were jailed while struggling for independence, democracy and reunification, abolish the anti-reunification "National Security Law" and discontinue moves for "a unified channel of dialogue."

If the South Korean authorities keep behind the bars and persecute the patriotic champions of reunification they arrested this time despite our repeated warnings, they would be held wholly responsible for all the consequences arising therefrom, stresses the statement.

South's Crime War Termed Offensive, Denounced

SK0512080790 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0439 GMT 5 Dec 90

["What Is the 'War Declaration' Aimed At?"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang December 5 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN in a commentary today brands the "war against crimes" declared by No Tae-u in mid-October last as a reactionary offensive against patriotic forces of reunification and democracy, not against organized gangs, murderers and robbers.

Saying that after the declaration the No group has launched an unheard-of wholesale roundup campaign with the mobilisation of 60,000 armed police on a daily average and even puppet army, but murder, robbery and other criminal cases are all the more rampant, the news analyst continues:

The data submitted by the puppet police headquarters to the "National Assembly" show that the crimes committed throughout South Korea in one month from November 3 number over 27,600 cases, or more than 900 on a daily average and, among other things, the number of robberies jumped 38 percent, murder 32 percent and rape 31 percent up on the same period of last year.

Those who have been arrested in the wholesale checkup and roundup after the "declaration of war" are patriotic-minded students, democratic figures and workers, peasants and the urban poor who called for the right to existence and democracy including the chairman of the "National Council of Student Representatives" (Chondaehyop), the chairman of the "national federation of peasant associations", the chairman of the trade union branch of the Seoul subway company.

The No group is making foolish attempts to defuse its "power" crisis by intensifying the wholesale crackdown offensive against the patriotic forces of democracy and reunification which call for the overthrow of the military fascist dictatorial "regime" and national reunification, under the signboard of "war against crimes". [sentence as received]

Fascist suppression cannot be a way out, though. The South Korean people will never pardon the No group which is engaging itself in the ruthless suppression at the point of the bayonet.

Commentary Claims No Tae-u 'Suppressing People'

SK0412110590 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1021 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Pyongyang December 4 (KCNA)—The number of those who were charged with the violation of the notorious "National Security Law" in South Korea from September last year to August this year increased 37.5 percent over the same period of the previous year. And the number of those who were charged with the violation of "law on assembly and demonstration" grew more than 64 percent. These are another clear evidence showing how frantically the No Tae-u group have run in suppressing people, says MINJU CHOSON in a commentary today.

Noting that those detained by the No gangsters are the patriots who fought for independence and democracy of South Korean society and for national reunification or working people who rose in the struggle for the right to existence and, accordingly, they have no justification to throw them behind bars, the news analyst says:

It is unpardonable for the puppets to have prosecuted the guiltless people who did righteous deeds for the country and nation on charges of violation of anti-reunification, anti-popular fascist laws.

The number of those prosecuted made public by the puppet prosecution this time is extremely dwarfed and it is, in fact, much bigger. Especially of late the No Tae-u group is launching an overall offensive against forces for independence, democracy and reunification after throwing South Korea into a terror-ridden atmosphere with the mobilization of the puppet police and prosecution as well as the puppet army under the pretext of "war against crimes".

These facts clearly show once again that "democracy" mouthed by the No group is a lie and they are the fascist tyrants and separatists putting the dictators of "Yusin" and "the Fifth Republic" into the shade.

SKNDF Central Committee Issues Statement

SK0412071390 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2100 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Statement issued by the Central Committee of the South Korea National Democratic Front, SKNDF, on 24 November, originally broadcast by the Voice of National Salvation]

[Text] Statement by the Central Committee of the SKNDF:

Talks between the DPRK and Japan to normalize diplomatic relations are progressing favorably amid domestic and foreign support.

Nevertheless, the No Tae-u ring is jealous of the improvement of relations between the DPRK and Japan and is adhering to ruthless maneuvers to interfere in every way.

By pushing the so-called theory of prudence in negotiations to normalize diplomatic relations between North Korea and Japan, the No Tae-u ring threw a wet blanket over the negotiations, and today finally put forth a preposterous precondition which resulted in an all-out challenge.

This kind of challenge from the No Tae-u ring is strongly revealed in the scheme to adopt decisions during the upcoming 26-27 November Korea-Japan regular ministerial meeting stating that Japan should not establish diplomatic relations with North Korea unless North Korea joins the international nuclear safeguards accord, recognizes Korea's entity, and diplomatic relations between Korea and China are achieved.

This is driving a wedge in the talks on improving DPRK-Japanese relations and impedes the normalization of diplomatic relations between the two countries. It is designed to maintain the cold war structure on the Korean Peninsula and is a wicked manuever to isolate North Korea from the rest of the world. This also is paving the way for political maneuvers to plot colonial domination by the United States and maintain the No Tae-u military dictatorial regime's security power through the existence of a divided system.

For the No Tae-u ring to interfere in and dispute over the issue of the DPRK and Japan normalizing their diplomatic relations is a presumptuous act. They do not even know their limits.

The normalization of DPRK-Japanese diplomatic relations seeks to put an end to abnormal relations between the DPRK, a sovereign state, and Japan. In accordance with the demands of the times and the intentions and interests of both countries' peoples, this is an issue concerning sovereign rights and must be resolved by the parties involved.

No one has the right to interfere here. The No Tae-u ring, furthermore, is a cat's paw belonging to the U.S. colonial group, which is not in a position to talk about the normalization of diplomatic relations between the DPRK and Japan.

For the No Tae-u ring to threaten Japan with dissolving the Korea-Japan treaty if decisions are made in advance on issues pending the DPRK-Japanese governmental talks is a preposterous action which ridicules public opinion.

It is not coincidence that the No Tae-u ring challenges the normalization of diplomatic relations between the DPRK and Japan with vice while ridiculing the people.

The fascist rule of the U.S. imperialist colonialists intensified the heated atmosphere of achieving an anti-U.S. independent reunification when the No Tae-u fascist military group took power, and now the No Tae-u group faces a dangerous situation in which its very existence is shaken.

The progress in talks to normalize DPRK-Japanese relations indeed is another severe political blow to the No Tae-u ring, the cat's paw of the colonialists, and it is facing its greatest chances of ruin since taking power.

Their masses are looking at today's developments in the talks to normalize DPRK-Japanese diplomatic relations—which is at a fundamentally different level than the humiliating normalization of diplomatic relations between Korea and Japan 25 years ago—with envy, and each day public sentiment leans toward North Korea, which is enhancing national dignity through independent politics and an independent diplomacy.

By revolting against the normalization of relations between the DPRK and Japan, the No Tae-u ring, which is in a state of extreme despair and senses crisis, is further nakedly revealing its splittist nature.

For the No Tae-u ring to put forth conditions for understanding the negotiations for normalizing diplomatic relations between the DPRK and Japan, such as the recognition of the entity and equal support regarding the establishment of diplomatic relations between Korea and China, is a sophistry lacking logic which results from the wicked maneuver of realizing the two Koreas policy by the United States.

As is generally known, the issue of normalizing relations between the DPRK and Japan starts from the [word indistinct] aiming for reunification and not the country's division.

This is eloquently shown in the joint declaration by the three parties of the Workers' Party of Korea, and Japan's Liberal Democratic Party and Socialist Party, which elucidated at home and abroad that Korea is one and that the North and South must be reunified without fail.

If the reunification-oriented improvement of relations between the DPRK and Japan are carried out smoothly, the No Tae-u ring will not be able to realize the plot to fabricate two Koreas by way of cross recognition, and in the end it will not be able avoid destruction.

Due to this, the No Tae-u ring is foolishly maneuvering to induce the talks to normalize diplomatic relations between the DPRK and Japan along the lines of splittist cross recognition at any cost.

For No Tae-u to babble that relations between the DPRK and Japan must be developed gradually in accordance with the progress of North-South dialogue, is also nothing but an antireunification plot to [word indistinct] by affiliating their strategic splittist dialogue to the issue of normalizing diplomatic relations between the DPRK and Japan.

The maneuvers by the No Tae-u ring to prevent the normalization of diplomatic relations between the DPRK and Japan, once again confirmed its own accord that the so-called 7 July declaration, which said that it will actively cooperate with North Korea in improving relations with allies such as the United States and Japan, is an antireunification and criminal document which is completely false.

The No Tae-u ring is even putting forth a sophistry which is just like trying to carry the war into the enemy's camp by saying that in order to improve relations between the DPRK and Japan, North Korea must join the international nuclear safeguards accord. Therefore, the No Tae-u ring is unhesitatingly carrying out brazen-faced act which is to put the brakes on the normalization of diplomatic relations between the DPRK and Japan.

As the whole world officially recognizes, the greatest nuclear explosive warehouse in the Far East is in Korea where some 1,000 U.S. nuclear weapons are concentrated.

Nevertheless, the No Tae-u ring blames North Korea, a nuclear-free country, clearly [word indistinct] the true nature of a perpetrator of the nuclear war of the United States.

The No Tae-u ring is persistently maneuvering to rupture the normalization of diplomatic relations between the DPRK and Japan under the instigation of the United States. However, this is a wanton thought which cannot by any means be achieved.

Our people will never look on idly at the crazy antinational and antihistoric behavior of the No Tae-u ring which is obstructing the normalization of the relations between the DPRK and Japan; pursuing the nations' perpetual division; and threatening peace in Asia and the world.

The SKNDF gravely warns that the No Tae-u ring faces the request of the nation's history, the trend of the times, and the will of the popular masses; that it unconditionally stop the useless maneuver to obstruct the normalization of diplomatic relations between the DPRK and Japan; and that it stop the rash and thoughtless action.

[Dated] 24 November 1990 Seoul

Dailies Mark Thai National Day

SK0512121490 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1000 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Pyongyang December 5 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN and MINJU CHOSON today carry articles on the national day of Thailand.

The Korean people warmly congratulate the Thai people on this occasion, says an article of NODONG SINMUN.

Noting that the Thai people have registered great successes in the building of a new society, it continues:

Thailand, a member nation of the "ASEAN" is developing economic cooperation with Southeast Asian Countries. The Thai people are striving for peace in Southeast Asia.

The friendly relations between Korea and Thailand are daily developing in the interests of the two peoples. Exchange and cooperation are being expanded and developed in politics, economy, culture and other domains and exchange of visits are brisk.

The Korean people wish the Thai people greater success in their future work for the prosperity of the country.

A MINJU CHOSON article says the Korean people believe that the friendly and cooperative relations between Korea and Thailand will grow stronger and develop in keeping with the aspirations and interests of the two peoples in the future.

Kim Sends Birthday Greetings to Thai King

SK0412111690 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1026 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Pyongyang December 4 (KCNA)—President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea today sent a message of greetings to King Phumiphon Adunyadet of Thailand on his 63rd birthday.

President Kim Il-song wishes the king and the Thai people great success in their work for the country's prosperity as well as the king's good health and happiness.

Yon Hyong-muk Sends Message to Thai Premier

SK0512053390 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1300 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Comrade Yon Hyong-muk, premier of the State Administration Council, sent a congratulatory message to Major General Chatchai Chunhawan, prime minister of the Kingdom of Thailand.

The congratulatory message said that he sends sincere congratulations on the occasion of the national day of the Kingdom of Thailand.

The congratulatory message said that he hopes that the friendly and cooperative relations between the DPRK and the Kingdom of Thailand will further develop in many fields in accordance with the common desire and mutual interest of the peoples of the two countries. The congratulatory message also said that he sincerely hopes that there will be prosperity and happiness for him and the people of the Kingdom of Thailand.

Further on Military Delegation's Visit to Thailand

O Chin-u Tours Rose Garden

SK0512050890 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2200 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] A DPRK military delegation headed by Comrade O Chin-u, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and minister of the People's Armed Forces, inspected the Rose Garden located outside of Bangkok on 2 December.

(Chawal), adviser to the supreme headquarters of the Thai Armed Forces, accompanied the delegation.

On the same day, the delegation was invited to a banquet arranged by (Sunton Kongsompong), supreme commander of the Thai Armed Forces. Attending the banquet were deputy commander of the supreme headquarters, chief and deputy chiefs of the Thai Armed Forces General Staff, and high-ranking generals and officers.

During the banquet, the supreme commander said he warmly welcomed the DPRK military delegation's visit to Thailand.

Delegation Calls on Premier

SK0512040390 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1300 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Yesterday, our country's military delegation led by Comrade O Chin-u, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and minister of the People's Armed Forces, which is visiting Thailand, paid a courtesy call on Chatchai Chunhawan, prime minister and minister of defense of the Kingdom of Thailand.

During the meeting, talks were held in a warm atmosphere.

National Day Celebrations Attended

SK0512050690 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1300 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Yesterday, our country's military delegation led by Comrade O Chin-u, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and minister of the People's Armed Forces, which is visiting Thailand, participated in the celebrations of its national holiday, which were held in Bangkok.

Along with the Kingdom of Thailand's King Phumiphon Adunyadet; Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan; other officers and men of the Thai Army; figures from political and social circles; and foreign delegations, all of whom are participating in the festivities, the delegation watched the formal military review of the Royal Guard, which was held at the plaza.

On this day, the delegation participated in an awards ceremony which was held at the government building of the Thai Army's Supreme Command Headquarters.

At the awards ceremony, Defense Minister Comrade O Chin-u was awarded the Great Cross Warrior Medal, First Class.

On this day, the delegation inspected the honor guard at the Thai Army's Supreme Command Headquarters and participated in a commemorative signing event which was held at the Royal Palace.

Yesterday evening, the delegation was invited to a dinner arranged by the deputy commander of the Thai Army's Supreme Command Headquarters.

O Chin-u Delegation Departs

SK0512111490 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1051 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Pyongyang December 5 (KCNA)—The military delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea led by O Chin-u, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] and minister of People's Armed Forces, flew back home today from visits to Iran and Thailand.

It was met at the airport by Yi Chong-ok, member of the Political Bureau of the C.C. [Central Committee], WPK and vice-president of the DPRK; Choe Kwang, member of the Political Bureau of the C.C., WPK and chief of the general staff of the Korean People's Army; Chon Mun-sop, vice-minister of People's Armed Forces; and other generals and officers of the KPA [Korean People's Army].

Present on the occasion were Hassan Dabir, Iranian ambassador, and Wang Dahui, military attache of the Chinese Embassy here.

Kim Il-song's International Interaction Reported

Kim Greets Finnish President

SK0512105690 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1034 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Pyongyang December 5 (KCNA)—President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea today sent a message of greetings to Finnish President Mauno Koivisto on the occasion of the 73rd anniversary of the independence of Finland.

The message sincerely wishes the president and people of Finland great success in their work for the prosperity of the country.

Kim Greets Central African Republic Leader

SK3011104790 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1003 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] Pyongyang November 30 (KCNA)—President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea sent a message of greetings on November 29 to Andre Kolingba, president and head of state of the Central African Republic (CAR) on the 32nd anniversary of the proclamation of the CAR.

The message wishes the president and the Central African People great success in their work to achieve national unity and socio-economic progress.

Kim Greets Romania's Iliescu

SK3011105990 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1005 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] Pyongyang November 30 (KCNA)—President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea sent a message of greetings on November 28 to Romanian President Ion Iliescu on the national day of Romania.

The message says:

I warmly congratulate you on the national day of Romania.

Availing myself of this opportunity, I heartily wish you and your people success in the work for the prosperity of the country, believing that the friendly and cooperative relations between our two countries will continue to develop.

Gift Sent to Malagasy President

SK0212113990 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0757 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Text] Antananarivo November 30 (KCNA)—President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea sent a gift to Malagasy President Didier Ratsiraka.

The documentary film "Visit of Comrade Didi Sratsiraka, President of the Democratic Republic of Madagascar and General Secretary of the Malagasy Vanguard of Revolution to Our Country" was conveyed to President Didier Ratsiraka by Korean Ambassador to Madagascar Chong Dae-hwa on November 28.

A conversation took place in a friendly atmosphere on the occasion.

Kim Receives Guinean Delegation

SK0512122490 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1023 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] Pyongyang December 5 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song today received the visiting Guinean Government agricultural delegation led by Minister of Agriculture and Animal Resources Abdourahamane Diallo [as received].

Present on the occasion were Chairman of the Agricultural Commission Kim Won-chin, Minister of External Economic Affairs Chong Song-nam and Vice-minister of Foreign Affairs Kim Yong-yong.

The head of the delegation conveyed to President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea a personal letter and a gift from Lansana Conte, president of the Military Committee of National Redressment, president and head of state of the Republic of Guinea.

President Kim Il-song expressed thanks for this and had a cordial and friendly conversation with the guests.

He arranged a luncheon for them.

Kim Receives Ghanian Letter

SK0412045490 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0412 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Pyongyang December 4 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song received a letter from the Ghanaian national seminar on the building of a new society and self-reliance held in Accra.

The letter says:

Through this seminar, we have come to know well that the chuche idea is a genuine guiding idea of our times most correctly indicating the road of shaping the destiny of mankind and they are following the path illumined by the chuche idea no matter how complicated the present world situation is and no matter how many turns and twists lie in their way.

We have clearly confirmed that Korea, once a backward colonial agricultural state, completely cleared away centuries-old backwardness and poverty in a historically short period and has brought about an epochal change and leaping development in all realms of natural, social and human transformation and the chuche idea and self-reliance have demonstrated their great vitality in building a powerful socialist state of independence, self-sustenance and self-defense.

Korean-style socialism which the Korean people chose by themselves and have built by their own efforts to suit their actual conditions conforms to the objective law of the social development of your country and fully meets the requirements of the Korean people to live an independent and creative life in harmony.

Korean socialism is making a dynamic advance, demonstrating its advantages, invincible vitality and solidity for it fully meets the intrinsic requirements of man even under the present complicated situation.

Kim Receives New Mozambican Envoy

SK0512121890 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1018 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Pyongyang December 5 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song received credentials Wednesday from Daniel Saul Mbanze [as received], newly-appointed ambassador e.p. of the Republic of Mozambique to Korea.

Present on the occasion was First Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Kang Sok-chu. After receiving the credentials, President Kim Il-song had a conversation with the ambassador.

The ambassador conveyed to President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea a gift of Joaquim Alberto Chissano, president of the Republic of Mozambique.

Kim Receives Zimbabwean Envoy

SK0512121990 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1020 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Pyongyang December 5 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song today received credentials from Boniface Guwa Chidgausiku [as received], newly-appointed ambassador e.p. of the Republic of Zimbabwe to Korea.

Present on the occasion were first Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Kang Sok-chu and an official of the Zimbabwean Embassy here.

After receiving the credentials, President Kim Il-song conversed with the ambassador.

The ambassador conveyed to President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea a gift from Robert G. Mugabe, president of the Republic of Zimbabwe.

Yon Hyong-muk Sends Message to Romanian Premier

SK0112073690 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1300 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] Comrade Yon Hyong-muk, premier of the State Administration Council, sent a congratulatory message to Petre Roman, prime minister of Romania.

The congratulatory message said that he sends warm congratulations on the occasion of Romania's national holiday and stated that he believes that the friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries will continue to develop well.

Anniversary Flower Basket Sent to Cuban Embassy

SK0112121390 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1047 GMT 1 Dec 90

[Text] Pyongyang December 1 (KCNA)—The Ministry of People's Armed Forces today sent a flower basket to the Cuban Embassy here in congratulation of the 34th anniversary of the day of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Cuba.

The flower basket was conveyed to military attache of the Cuban Embassy here Emilio Morales Segui by officials concerned.

KCNA Reviews 5 Dec Pyongyang Press

SK0512071390 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0418 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Pyongyang December 5 (KCNA)—Papers here today report that the great leader President Kim Il-song received credentials from the newly-appointed ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of India to Korea on December 4.

Carried in the press is a message of greetings sent by President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to King Phumiphon Adunyadet of Thailand on his 63rd birthday.

A Ghanaian newspaper carried an article explaining a work of dear Comrade Kim Chong-il and a seminar on his work was held in India, says NODONG SINMUN.

It is reported in the paper that after a deep study of the work of Comrade Kim Chong-il "The Workers' Party of Korea Organizes and Guides All the Victories of Our People" a public figure of Madagascar was interviewed by a KCNA correspondent in Antananarivo.

NODONG SINMUN and MINJU CHOSON carry stories about the energetic guidance of Comrade Kim Chong-il to turn the Wangjaesan cooperative farm in Onsong County, North Hamgyong Province, into a modern rural village good to live in, and the Kaechon pig iron works in South Pyongan Province into a powerful local iron production base.

MINJU CHOSON conveys repercussions evoked by the reply letter of Comrade Kim Chong-il to members of the second party cell of the department No. 5 of the KCNA upon officials and working people.

Printed in the paper is a decree of the Central People's Committee of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on removing or appointing some members of the Administration Council.

According to the press, the international institute of the chuche idea published "Paekbong Library" No. 67.

The press gives an account of sojourn of a DPRK military delegation in Thailand.

Economic news of the press includes reports that dwelling houses for 22,400 families were assembled and houses for more than 13,000 families completed this year in the housing construction sites for 50,000 families in the capital city, and vegetable hothouses of 30 hectares have been built in South Pyongan Province.

NODONG SINMUN reports that a meeting was held to mark the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Kim Hyong-chik Military Medical University. The paper comes out with an article captioned "Ideological Revolution Is Most Active Method of Ideological Remoulding".

Given in the press is a statement of a spokesman for the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland condemning the South Korean fascist clique's arrest of the South side's delegates who had participated in the Berlin tripartite working-level talks for forming a pan-national alliance for reunification.

NODONG SINMUN comes out with an article titled "Driving Force of National Reunification Is the Entire Korean Nation" and a commentary denouncing the South Korean fascist clique for its wholesale suppression of the patriotic and democratic forces of reunification.

Papers report that the U.S. imperialist aggressors committed the criminal joint air strike exercises across South Korea, South Korean people and world public strongly demanded the withdrawal of the U.S. troops and nuclear weapons from South Korea and "Asia Watch", a U.S. organisation of human rights, demanded the immediate abolition of the "conversion system" which is imposed upon the South Korean political prisoners.

NODONG SINMUN informs the readers that the Chinese PEOPLE'S DAILY carried its article laying bare the essence of the imperialists' "defence of human rights".

Reported in the press are voices of foreigners on the rural communities of Korea which has been turned into a paradise good to live in and the decision of the Japanese Foreign Ministry on cancelling the regulation on excluding the DPRK from friendly countries, which is booked in the Japanese passports.

International news columns of the press include reports that the Algerian president outlined the disarmament, the chairman of the Presidential Council of Yemen called for peaceful settlement of the Gulf crisis, the director of the General Political Department of the Chinese People's Liberation Army laid stress on guaranteeing the party's absolute leadership over the army, the Chinese foreign minister visited the United States, the Supreme Soviet of the USSR adopted a decision "on home situation", the federal secretary for national defence of Yugoslavia warned against the danger of outside interference, the ministry of revolutionary armed forces of Cuba condemned the UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] clique for attacking a Cuban Army camp in Angola and the national day of Romania was celebrated.

Papers observe the national day of Thailand.

NODONG SINMUN carries an article exposing the reality of the United States where "the rich get richer and the poor poorer".

Significance of Labor Administration Stressed

SK2911120290 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1029 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] Pyongyang November 29 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today comes out with a by-lined article on the first anniversary of the publication of the work "On Further Improving and Strengthening Labour Administration" by dear Comrade Kim Chong-il on November 27, 1989.

The work gives a scientific exposition of the significance, importance and essence of labour administration, the necessity to further improve labour administration in the socialist society, the questions of establishing a revolutionary way of work, making an effective use of manpower resources and providing the working people with working conditions and all other theoretical and practical questions arising in labour administration.

The article titled "Highly Important Guideline Indicating the Way of Improving Labour Administration" says:

Labour is man's independent, creative and conscious activity to conquer and dominate nature and become the master of nature.

Accordingly, labour administration for organizing and managing the labour activities of the people should be work with the people, political work.

Dear Comrade Kim Chong-il said:

"Labour administration is, in essence, work with people, political work. It is a work for ideologically rousing people to social labour, a work for cultivating and enlisting their creative strength."

What is decisive in labour activity is the independent consciousness of people. The higher their independent consciousness enhances, the more they create material and cultural wealth. So, labour administration should be consistently work with people, political work for ideologically rousing them to action.

What is also important in labour activity is the creative ability of people. Such work as planning of labour, allocation of manpower, labour organization and management, distribution according to work done and ensurance of working conditions arising in labour administration is a work for enlisting the creative ability needed in nature-remaking.

It is the most scientific and revolutionary viewpoint on labour administration to consider labour administration to be work with people, political work.

Only when labour administration is considered to be work with people, political work, is it possible to solve all the problems arising in labour administration, centering on man, and enhance the role of labour administration in socialist and communist construction.

Daily Commemorates 1980 Kim Chong-il Work

SK0312103790 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1000 GMT 3 Dec 90

["Highly Important Guideline That Should Be Firmly Adhered To by Party Organisations"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang December 3 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today dedicates an article to the 10th anniversary of the publication of the work "On Some Tasks Facing the Party Organizations" by dear Comrade Kim Chong-il (December 3, 1980).

Noting that the work is a highly important guideline which gives a comprehensive exposition of the theoretical and practical problems to be constantly held fast to by party organisations, the author of the article says: The important idea indicated in the work is to thoroughly establish the revolutionary trait of unconditionality in implementing the teachings of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the party policy, their embodiment.

Dear Comrade Kim Chong-il taught:

"To implement the teachings of the great leader and the party's policy unconditionally to the end is the first and foremost task and revolutionary duty of the party organizations and party officials."

The teachings of the great leader and our party's line and policy, their embodiment, are correct strategy and tactics to lead the revolution and construction to victory in conformity with the aspiration of our people and the specific conditions of our country. It is a noble duty for the party organisations and party officials to subordinate everything to the work of implementing his teachings and party policy, their embodiment.

The important idea expounded in the work is also to strengthen the work to lay the party's foundation.

This important question related to the future destiny of the party and the revolution has been successfully solved in our country. Loyal ardor to make the revolution under the guidance of dear Comrade Kim Chong-il, holding the great leader in high esteem, permeates the whole party and the whole society and the unity and cohesion of the party has been strengthened than ever before. The militancy of the party has been enhanced incomparably, the revolutionary discipline whereby the whole party acts as one has been established and the party's leadership over the revolution and construction is firmly guaranteed. This is the greatest success achieved in our party building.

The idea advanced in the work is also to further strengthen ideological education among the party members and working people and develop in depth the campaign to follow the example of the unassuming heroes.

Only when ideological education is strengthened, can the party members and working people be firmly armed with the chuche idea and be trained into Communist revolutionaries of chuche type who are possessed of the revolutionary outlook on the world and actively struggle to carry into practice the chuche idea and can one idea, the chuche idea, prevail within our party, pure and clean.

A new improvement has been made in the ideological and moral traits of the party members and working people and in the work method and style of the officials and a great success achieved in socialist construction through the campaign to follow the example of the unassuming heroes which was put forward by our party. Today the ranks of the unassuming heroes and unassuming men of meritorious services continue expanding and the enthusiasm of the party members and working people to devote their all to the party and the leader, the country and the people, is growing immensely.

NODONG SINMUN on Ideological Revolution

SK0512114690 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1026 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Pyongyang December 5 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today comes out with an article titled "Ideological Revolution is Most Positive Method of Ideological Remoulding," which says in part:

Dear Comrade Kim Chong-il said:

"Ideological revolution is a most positive method in remoulding man's ideology."

Transformation of man's ideology is the most important content in remoulding people in a communist way and the might of the driving forces of the socialist society and the destiny of the socialist construction depend on how to conduct this work.

Ideological revolution is the most positive method in remoulding man's ideology because it helps the people, above all, to firmly establish the revolutionary world outlook and the outlook on the revolution.

Through ideological revolution the people realise the reactionary nature of the old ideologies and their harmfulness and fight to root up them [as received]. It also brings home to them the truth and greatness of a new communist revolutionary idea and cements their faith and gives them the staunch communist revolutionary spirit of resolutely fighting for its victory. Thus, the ideological revolution helps them to staunchly fight to realise the communistic revolutionary idea, the idea of the leader, without the slightest deviation and hesitation in the whole course of the difficult, protracted revolutionary struggle with a correct understanding of the law of the developing revolution and confidence in the future of the revolution.

Ideological revolution is the most positive method in remoulding man's idea because it is the requirement of the process of the ideological remoulding itself.

Ideology can be remoulded in the course of uprooting remnants of the old ideology from the consciousness of people and arming them with a new revolutionary idea. The process of uprooting the old ideology is that of acquiring a new revolutionary idea, and vice versa.

One reason why ideological revolution is a most positive method in remoulding man's ideology is that it makes it possible to thoroughly prevent the infiltration of the reactionary bourgeois ideology of the imperialists.

By uprooting the old ideology from the minds of people, ideological revolution makes it possible to prevent the infiltration of bourgeois ideology and arm the popular masses with revolutionary ideological consciousness so as to thoroughly check the infiltration of bourgeois ideology. In this way, ideological revolution helps successfully carry out the ideological remoulding which makes the people communist human beings.

Our party has given a definite precedence to the ideological revolution and steadily deepened it as required by the developing revolution. As a result, the popular masses have firmly armed themselves with the chuche idea and thoroughly established chuche in ideology and the entire people form a socio-political organism, united singleheartedly around the party.

Construction of Sariwon Complex Progresses

SK0112120690 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1043 GMT 1 Dec 90

[Text] Pyongyang December 1 (KCNA)—The construction of the Sariwon potassic fertilizer complex, one of the major construction programs in Korea, is progressing fast. It carries very great national economic importance with its estimated annual production capacity running into hundreds of thousnds of tons in potassic fertilizer and aluminium and over ten million tons in cement.

The builders have erected more than 20 structures including the calcining ground of the first-stage calcining system, the raw material crushing ground, the ore-liquid mixing shop, and pulverized coal depot in a short time.

Already completed are projects of power transmission lines, the transformer substation, the switchboard room, the casting workshop, outdoor power networks and the laying of industrial water pipes extending nearly 20,000 metres. In November, the general construction speed increased more than 1.2 times, the amount of prefab assembling nearly 3 times and assembling of steel structures almost 4.2 times as against the previous month.

On November 28, the great leader President Kim Il-song visited the construction site, highly praised the People's Army soldiers and builders who had done a lot of things in a short period by their own effort and with domestic technologies and equipment and gave programmatic teachings which would serve as a guideline in the construction.

The builders have these days boosted the speed of construction more than 1.5 times as against the same period of the pevious month.

Selected Industries Report Economic Progress

SK0412110090 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1012 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Pyongyang December 4 (KCNA)—Signal economic results are reported in Korea. A vigorous drive is now going on at the General Bureau of Ryongsong Machine Industries to manufacture six 4,000 hp compressors for the modernization of the Hungnam fertilizer complex before the end of this year.

The workers there have already produced the first two compressors by the end of October, and are now hastening the assembling of the third one and the manufacture of accessory parts of the No. four at the last stage and produced most of the materials for the Nos. five and six compressors.

The workers of the Rakwon oxygen plant works are giving finishing touch to the production of the extra-large oxygen plant of 18,000 cubic metres.

The workshops of the works are carrying out their daily quotas for accessory parts at 130 to 160 per cent.

The Musan mining complex increased the production of concentrated iron ore 32.4 per cent, and the Songjin steel complex that of steel 20.3 per cent and rolled steel 31.6 per cent in the last 50 odd days as against the corresponding period last year.

According to the General Bureau of phosphate fertilizer industry, the production of phosphate fertilizer went up 50 per cent these days as against the same period last year.

South Korea

Prime Minister's 'Imminent' Resignation Denied

SK0512043490 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 5 Dec 90 p 2

[Text] Prime Minister Kang Yong-hun marks two years in office today amid strong signs he would tender his resignation to President No Tae-u shortly after No's return from an official visit to Moscow later this month to inject fresh air into the administration.

Government sources said that his resignation would give No a free hand for a Cabinet reshuffle around the year-end to make his latter half of the five-year tenure more fruitful. However, a spokesman for the prime minister denied that Kang's resignation is imminent.

In retrospect of the past two years in office, longer than average in recent administrations, he told reporters yesterday that he devoted himself to the task of "consolidating democratic order in our society." "It was the restoration of democratic order in society that I have devoted myself to and considered as the most important task so far," he said, explaining that good social order is the prerequisite to a rule of law and the basis of liberal democracy.

He deemed the recovery of social order as a "mandate of the era" following No June 29 declaration of democratic reform which calmed down massive pro-democracy protests but spurred a flood of labor activities and other demands, usually accompanied by violent action. "Irrespective of my staying in the Cabinet or not, the administration should make all efforts to root out social evils and stabilize a firmer order by the end of this year and march toward goals of the Sixth Republic more vigorously from next year on," he said.

He cited preparations for local autonomy and improvement of inter-Korean relations as two most urgent tasks facing the administration for 1992. The prime minister, chief South Korean delegate to the high-level inter-Korean talks, added that he hopes for "at least a certain concrete and substantial agreement on South-North cooperation and exchanges" in the third round of the meetings due in Seoul next week.

"As you know, I have never been inclined to take sides in political squabbles and remained on the political sideline. I was unexpectedly picked as prime minister and served with the determination to learn from my work and took the post in all sincerity," he told reporters, a remark which sounded like a farewell speech.

Kang, dismissed as superintendent of Korea Military Academy for his objection to the coup by Maj. Gen. Pak Chong-hui in 1961, served as a university dean and later ambassador.

North Official Hints at Premier Talks Boycott

SK0512124390 Seoul YONHAP in English 1159 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 5 (OANA-YONHAP)—Responsible liaison officials of South and North Korea on Wednesday discussed the timetable of the forthcoming third-round prime ministers' talks slated to open in Seoul Dec. 11.

The officials ended their 90-minute meeting at the Truce Village of Panmunjom after agreeing to meet again on Friday to finalize the timetable and exchange a memorandum for guaranteeing safety of the North Korean delegates to come to Seoul.

However, North Korea's Choe Pong-chun reportedly hinted at possible boycott by Pyongyang of the prime ministers' talks, saying, "Prime Minister Yon Hyong-muk, being much troubled with the Southern government's arrest of three Chonminnyon delegates to the Berlin inter-Korean talks, instructed me not to discuss the timetable of the third-round Seoul talks today."

According to the South-North dialogue Secretariat in Seoul, Choe told his South Korean counterpart, Kim Yong-hwan, that Pyongyang was yet to decide whether to participate in the talks. Choe was quoted as telling Kim that Pyongyang would make a final decision on it in two to three days.

Kim produced in the meeting itineraries of the northern delegates, which included courtesy calls on President No Tae-u, and accommodations arrangement plan at Hotel Shilla, where the northern visitors are to stay. The two sides decided not to have working-level contacts for drafting an agreement to be adopted at the premiers' talks as the set-date of the talks is near at hand.

Three delegates of Chonminnyon, South Korea's umbrella dissident organization, were put under arrest on charges of violating the National Security Law upon their return from the pan-national conference in Berlin mid last month. The South Korean Government has outlawed the pan-national movement, which has been promoted by North Korean officials, some groups of Koreans living abroad and Chonminnyon.

Displeased with the arrests, North Korea has threatened to boycott a year-end Korean traditional music festival, scheduled on Dec. 9 in Seoul, through open statements issued by the Committee for the Peaceful Unification of Fatherland.

A South Korean Government official said, "it is true that the North hinted at intention to reconsider its earlier decision to participate in the premiers' talks and the music festival, but it is not likely to do so out of concern about its external relations."

No Agreement Reached at Contact

SK0512084590 Seoul Domestic Service in Korean 0800 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Both sides of the North and South held responsible liaison officials' contact in Tongilgak, the North side's area in Panmunjom this morning, and negotiated a concrete date for the 3d round of the North-South High-Level Talks. However, because the North side put forward the question of those arrested in connection with the Berlin pannational meeting, thus a date for the talks was not decided.

Both sides of the North and the South agreed to hold a liaison officials' contact on 7 December once again, to decide the date for the North-South High-Level Talks and to exchange the list of the North Korean delegates and our side's memorandum of guaranteeing personal security.

At today's contact, both sides of the North and the South agreed not to hold working-level officials' contact any more, because the date for the North-South High-Level Talks are just around the corner. And, the North side and the South side agreed to negotiate and decide contents needed for the talks through responsible liaison officials' contact.

Regional Meeting Proposed To Discuss N-S Issue

OW0412214490 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0300 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Komeito Chairman Koshiro Ishida, who is currently on a visit to South Korea, met with Kim Yong-sam, executive chairman of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP], this morning. At the meeting, the two agreed to strive for the establishment of a parliamentarian-level consultative council on Korea involving six pertinent nations including Japan and the ROK to promote the relaxation of tension on the Korean peninsula.

[Video shows scenes of the meeting while Seoul correspondent Satoshi Masagaki, identified by caption on screen, begins recorded report] [Masagaki] At the meeting, Chairman Ishida proposed that, to promote the relaxation of tension on the Korean peninsula, six nations including Japan, the United States, the Soviet Union, and China, in addition to the ROK and the DPRK, should establish a venue for parliamentarian-level consultations on Korea.

In response, Executive Chairman Kim Yong-sam said that, although China and North Korea have not expressed their intentions clearly, it would be very much desirable to hold such a conference for the peace of Northeast Asia. He then said that he would seek cooperation from Komeito, which maintains pipelines with China.

The two thus agreed to strive for the establishment of a consultative council of parliamentarians among the six nations.

Later, the Komeito chairman met with Kim Tae-chung, president of the opposition Party for Peace and Democracy. Chairman Ishida wants to explore concrete ways of promoting detente on the Korean peninsula and a role for Japan to play through such talks with leaders of the ruling and opposition parties. [end recording]

'Party of Masses' Seeks Visit to North

SK3011051690 Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN in Korean 28 Nov 90 p 1

[Text] On 27 November, Yi U-che, chief cochairman of the Party of the Masses, and party cochairmen Kim Nak-chung and Kim Sang-ki held a joint press conference in the party headquarters in Sogyo-tong, Mapo-ku, Seoul, and revealed that "in efforts to help solve the serious agricultural problem and to promote North-South exchanges, the party plans to file an application for a visit to the North by the party's delegation of farmers to discuss the sale to North Korea of such surplus farm products as rice and cabbage."

Chief Cochairman Yi said: "We demand that 'talks for peace on the Korean peninsula' involving North and South Korea, the United States, and China be immediately held to turn the armistice system into a peace system. The question of denuclearizing the Korean peninsula and the withdrawal of foreign troops will be discussed at the talks."

He added: "In principle, we agree on the proposal of the Party of Peace and Democracy for forming an 'all-people council for national reunification.' On this we propose that to form this council by next January at the latest, a working-level meeting among representatives of the Party of the Masses, the Party of Peace and Democracy, and the Democratic Party, the National Coalition, and the government be held at once."

In addition, he demanded that the No regime step down from power unless it effects extensive political and economic reforms; that a complete public election management system be established by revising the current Law on Political Parties, the Election Law, and the Law on Political Funds; that 50 percent of the lawmakers be elected through the proportional representative system according to a joint ballot method; and that the elections of the Assemblymen and heads of all administrative units be held at the same time by the end of the latter half of 1991 at latest.

Jiang Zemin Urges North To Carry Out Reform

SK2911052490 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 27 Nov 90 p 2

[YONHAP report from Tokyo]

[Text] On 27 November, Japan's SANKEI SHIMBUN reported from Beijing that in a meeting on 26 November between Jiang Zemin, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, and Yon Hyong-muk, premier of the North Korean State Administration Council, at the Special Economic Zone in Shenzhen, Guangdon Province, Jiang Zemin emphasized the importance of the policy on reform and openness.

General Secretary Jiang, who arrived in Shenzhen on that day to attend the ceremony of the 10th anniversary of the founding of the Special Economic Zone, met with Yon Hyong-muk who is on a tour of the Special Economic Zone, and talked about the superiority of socialism and emphasized, "we must accelerate in the field of opening up to the outside and in the economic reform." This paper revealed that it seemed that Jiang Zemin was urging North Korea, which has maintained a closed system, to bring about changes.

Security Agency Arrests 3 for 'Spying for North'

SK0512035090 Seoul YONHAP in English 0138 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 5 (YONHAP)—Three people detained by the Agency for National Security Planning (NSP) have been referred to the prosecution on charges of spying for North Korea, the Agency said Tuesday.

The three—Kim Hon-kyu, 29, a chauffeur, his 25-year-old cousin Kim Ik-hyon and Yim Tong-kwang, 41, a salaried man—were recruited by agents of Chochongnyon [General Association of Korean Residents in Japan], a pro-Pyongyang Korean residents's organization in Japan, while in the neighboring country seeking jobs, the Agency said. Cho Yong-sik, 27, who runs a print shop near Kyongbok National University in Taegu, was booked without physical detention on a charge of receiving money from Chochongnyon.

They are suspected of having received 2.7 million yen (2.1 million U.S. dollars) from Chochongnyon and distributing seditious leaflets printed in North Korea on Taegu campuses. The Agency said they were recruited by Cho Chon-kil, vice chief of Chochongnyon's Gunma Prefecture chapter, while they worked at a casino run by a Chochongnyon member last year.

They were indoctrinated and given money to open a print shop near a university and instigate anti-American and pro-Pyongyang activities in South Korea, the Agency said. They are suspected of distributing seditious leaflets printed in North Korea on campuses in Taegu and passing information on student demonstrations in Taegu to Chochongnyon between February last year and August, the Agency said. The Agency says it has as evidence five documents and a photo of Kim Hon-kyu taken in Japan with Cho Chon-kil.

Moscow Talks To Cover Economic Cooperation

SK0412050190 Seoul YONHAP in English 0419 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 4 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea will time the start of full-fledged economic exchange and cooperation with the Soviet Union with President No Tae-u's visit Dec. 13-16. During the trip, government officials will discuss details of some 30 consumer projects from a list of 40 proposed by Moscow at economic cooperation talks in August.

The negotiations will cover joint projects such as development of Svetlaya Forest, production of consumer goods in exchange for raw materials and fishing in Soviet waters as well as technology transfers, aviation and investment, officials said.

Leaders of business groups Hyundai, Samsung, Lucky-Goldstar and Daewoo, who on their own have been pursuing projects with the communist country, will most likely be included in No's entourage, the officials said.

Kim Chong-in, senior presidential secretary for economic affairs, led a 20-member delegation to the Soviet Union in August and returned with a list of 22 industrial projects involving 40 consumer products requested by Moscow. A Soviet delegation was to come to Seoul in October to conclude an agreement on the proposal, but has been delayed twice.

Government officials said they hope to pick up the talks from the August meeting and are set to propose a detailed cooperation plan on some 30 products, including refrigerators, washing machines, vacuum cleaners, television sets, tape recorders and sewing machines. Korea is studying the possibility of exporting these items for one or two years, after which they will be produced jointly at Soviet plants in exchange for raw materials, according to the officials.

Korea may also accept raw materials as payment if the Soviet Union is unable to settle its trade accounts or rely on cad (cash against documents) or other export insurance methods.

Officials are hoping to quicken progress on some of the joint ventures sought by private companies, which range from the development of coal and zinc mines to construction of transcontinental pipelines, car factories and petrochemical plants. In fisheries, Korea will seek direct fishing permission in Soviet fishing grounds under set quotas instead of imports, they said. Other important topics include finalizing six agreements the two countries have already initialed on trade, technology cooperation, prevention of double taxation, investment protection and fisheries cooperation.

Soviets To Transfer Technology 'On Condition'

SK2911034190 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 29 Nov 90 p 3

[By staff reporter Han Tong-su]

[Text] "The Soviet Union is ready to transfer its advanced core technology to Korea on condition that it is done according to the principle of mutual benefits," said Dr. Valeriy A. Mikhaylov, first deputy chairman of the Soviet State Committee for Science and Technology.

"In return for giving Korea our high tech, we want to receive from Korea something similar on a reciprocal basis," the vice minister-level Soviet official said in a press conference at the Science-Technology Ministry yesterday.

Mikhaylov said that the two sides have yet to map out concrete projects with regard to technology transfer.

"There still are many obstacles for full-fledged technological exchanges between the two countries, such as Cocom restrictions and high technology fees," Mikhaylov said. "But we are now in the process of improving relations with the rest of the world and we hope that restrictive mechanisms will ease in step with the improving international political climate."

In the meeting of Science-Technology Minister Kim Chin-hyon prior to the press conference, Mikhaylov proposed that a large scale exhibition of and seminar on Soviet technology be held in Seoul next March following a similar technology show in Tokyo.

Mikhaylov revealed that a Korean scientist will be honored with membership of the Soviet Science Academy shortly.

The Soviet side will invite to Moscow six Korean delegations composed of scientists and officials beginning next month to sound out the possibility of technology exchanges.

According to the second highest Soviet science official, the Soviet Union is keenly interested in commercializing its advanced fundamental technology by hybridizing it with Korea's "applied" industrial knowhow.

Admitting that past Soviet centralization policy had brought about inefficiency and a dirth of innovation, especially in the private sector, Mikhaylov said that his country will gladly accept and adopt useful Korean technologies to upgrade the living standard of Soviet people.

Mikhaylov said the two sides have agreed to set up a joint research center and research groups in the field of basic sciences.

During his week-long stay in Korea, Mikhaylov visited Taedok Science Town and many industrial firms and he said he was quite impressed by the hectic research activities and lively atmosphere there. "I learnt a lot about economic and tax incentives as well as legal support systems designed to promote scientific and technological development in Korea," Mikhaylov said. "We will soon submit a similar kind of institutional device to our parliament and the 'Korean experience' will be a good frame of reference for us then."

Mikhaylov revealed that the Soviet Union has deepened scientific and technological ties with Japan, the United States and Western Europe, particularly since Mikhail Gorbachev's launching of perestroyka.

"We had already signed an inter-government science and technology agreement with Japan in 1973 and have maintained special relationships with the country since then," Mikhaylov said. "We also have concluded separate cooperation agreements with a score of private Japanese firms and institutes.

"With the United States, we were not very active, but the situation has changed and cooperative ties with them are progressing rapidly," said the Soviet official. "We have signed many scientific and technological agreements with U.S. institutions, including the telecommunications agreement concluded this year.

"The Soviet Union has also signed inter-government scientific cooperation agreements with most European countries," Mikhaylov said.

Asked if the Soviet's heavy military spending hamstrings the civilian sector, Mikhaylov replied, "That's not the case any more, especially since perestroyka." "The R&D [research and development] investment in the civilian and military sectors is almost equal," he said, "Moreover, about half of the military R&D investment is also applicable to civilian needs. "For example, 600 space shuttle technologies can be applied in the civilian sector," Mikhaylov said.

Since perestroyka, Mikhaylov said, the Soviet government has been taking tougher measures to protect the environment. "For pure ecological reasons, we have closed hundreds of factories producing sub-quality household chemicals such as detergent," Mikhaylov said. "It is true that the anti-pollution measures have been a heavy burden on our economy, but we are willing to pay the price."

Atomic Energy Venture With USSR To Begin

SK0512023090 Seoul THE KOREA ECONOMIC JOURNAL in English 3 Dec 90 p 3

[Text] Daewoo Corporation and the Soviet Atomic Energy Department have agreed to commercialize Soviet high technologies of new materials and special surface treatment.

Yun Yong-sok, president of Daewoo Corporation, signed a contract with Yuriy J. Tychkov, vice atomic energy minister of the Soviet Union, to set up a joint venture to be in charge of the Soviet high tech commercialization project.

The joint venture will be established in Korea early next year with a total paid-in capital of $300,000 to be equally shared by both sides. President of the joint-venture company will be appointed by Daewoo, while vice president will be appointed by the Soviet side.

The joint venture will conduct research activities to commercialize high technologies developed by the joint venture will not only be supplied to Korea and the Soviet Union, but exported to third nation as well.

In addition, Daewoo plans to participate in the commercialization of high-output laser processing technology.

Pusan-USSR Cargo Trade Lowest Since Aug 1989

SK0512021990 Seoul THE KOREA ECONOMIC JOURNAL in English 3 Dec 90 p 8

[Text] In October, containerized export volume to the Soviet Union carried on the Pusan-Vostochniy sea route hit its lowest level, 400 TEU [ton equivalent units], since August 1989. At that time Korea began exporting daily necessities such as soap and toothpastes to the USSR. The monthly average figure was 600-800 TEUs during the latter half of 1989 and 1,200 TEUs during the first quarter of 1990.

Export cargo bound for the USSR on the Pusan-Vostochniy route plummeted from 1,400 TEUs in March this year to 680 TEUs in April, because Korean trading companies have had serious problems collecting payments from the USSR.

Since then, Korean general trading companies have adopted a more prudent attitude toward their exporting to the USSR. The volume fluctuated from 780 TEUs in May, to 440 TEUs in June, to 900 TEUs in July, to 490 TEUs in August, to 690 TEUs in September and to 400 TEUs in October.

The decreasing trend is because an additional order for daily necessities from the USSR was not placed although the former large quantity orders placed in the latter half of last year are almost used up.

In addition, a lack of available containers on the Pusan-Vostochniy route, resulting in indirect exports via ports near the Black Sea or European ports, is another reason for the decreasing export volume on the route.

For the first ten months containerized exports to the USSR on the route totaled 8,230 TEUs, up 164 percent from the same period last year, while imports amounted to 1,858 TEUs, down 20 percent over a year earlier.

The falling imports of raw silk, Korea's major import item from the USSR, and chemicals such as caprolactam are the reasons for the lower imports from the USSR.

Direct Shipping Lines to USSR To Open in Jan

SK0412031290 Seoul YONHAP in English 0207 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 4 (YONHAP)—South Korea and the Soviet Union, after delays caused by a lack of ships and problems with agents, are now expected to open a direct containership line between Pusan and Vostochnyy by mid-January.

Hyundai Merchant Marine Co. Ltd., Chunkyung Shipping Co. and the Soviet Far East Shipping Co. (Fesco) had scheduled the first sailing for the end of this month.

Korea-Soviet Shipping Co. Ltd., a Hyundai-Chunkyung joint venture set up to operate on the line, expects to procure a 300-teu (twenty-foot equivalent unit) containership before the year ends, company chairman Choe Song-un said Tuesday.

Fesco recently secured a 320-teu vessel and proposed a starting date of Jan. 2. It takes 30 hours to cover the 816 kilometers between Korea's southeastern port of Pusan and Vostochnyy in the Soviet Far East.

First, however, Fesco and Korean companies must settle disputes over agents.

Fesco wants to set up Oriental Shipping Co. with Chunkyung and Wooshin International Transport Co. as the sole agent for the two ships on the route, but Korea-Soviet shipping insists that it operate one vessel and Oriental the other.

Economic-Trade Group Set Up With Japan

SK0512032890 Seoul THE KOREA ECONOMIC JOURNAL in English 3 Dec 90 p 3

[Text] Korea and Japan reportedly agreed to set up a bilateral body for promoting increased cooperation in trade, industry and technology as early as possible and to hold the first meeting of the body during the first half of next year.

Agreement came at the first day session of the 15th annual Korea-Japan ministerial talks, which opened in Seoul on Nov. 26.

In order to establish the body, the two sides agreed to negotiate details through diplomatic channels, sources close to the Seoul meeting said.

At separate meetings, the Korean side asked Japan to extend its GSP (generalized system for preferences) period for Korean products as Japan's current GSP is to expire at the end of next March, while the Japanese side reportedly pledged to take up Korea's request for favorable discussions among the concerned Japanese government ministries the sources said.

Tokyo, Seoul Agree on Rice Market Closure

SK0412122690 Seoul YONHAP in English 1157 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 4 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korean Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Cho Kyong-sik has agreed with his Japanese counterpart, Tomio Yamamoto, to match steps in their bid to keep their rice markets tightly closed, Japanese press reports said Tuesday.

In a 50-minute meeting on Monday in Brussels, Cho expressed his determination to oppose demands for opening agricultural markets and was quoted in the reports as saying, "The rice market will never to be opened under any circumstances, and neither will there be import liberalization of 14 other agricultural items." Yamamoto emphasized close cooperation between Korea and Japan in the Urguay Round talks, saying Japan would force through the talks the concept of rice as a "basic" food.

Senegalese Foreign Minister Arrives in Seoul

SK0312071690 Seoul YONHAP in English 0638 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 3 (YONHAP)—Senegalese Foreign Minister Seydina Oumar Sy [name as received] arrived in Seoul on Monday afternoon for a five-day stay as the guest of his Korean counterpart, Choe Ho-chung. During his stay, Sy is to meet with Choe to discuss ways to accelerate bilateral cooperation and will pay a courtesy call on president No Tae-u. He is to tour the industrial facilities of Samsung Electronics Co. and Daewo Heavy Industries Co.

Many Foreign Airlines Seek Service to Seoul

SK2911021290 Seoul YONHAP in English 0145 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 29 (OANA-YONHAP)—Foreign airlines see South Korea as one of the fastest growing markets in Northeast Asia and many will start or expand flights to the nation next year, according to Transportation Ministry sources Thursday.

Some foreign airlines will launch flights to Seoul and others will increase the number of flights because of Korea's mounting importance as an economic and transportation hub, they said.

American Airlines, following in the steps of Northwest, Delta, United and Continental, is preparing to be the fifth U.S. airline serving Seoul, the sources said.

Qantas of Australia and Lauda of Austria are preparing to open routes to Seoul while Yugoslavian Airlines is also about to begin service to Korea, they said.

Japanese and Southeast Asian airlines are strengthening their ties with Korea's two airlines, Korean Air and Asiana Airlines, because of the increasing demand to and from Seoul and the prospects of opening routes to such communist countries as China.

The Transportation Ministry's policy to allow airlines to serve Korea only if they have an aviation agreement with a Korean airline and to speed up construction of a second international airport near Seoul.

Consumer Goods Imports Highest Since 1983

SK0512021390 Seoul THE KOREA ECONOMIC JOURNAL in English 3 Dec 90 p 10

[Text] The share of imports for domestic consumption in Korea's overall imports this year recorded the highest annual level since 1983, according to statistics compiled by the Office of Customs Administration.

During the first 10 months of this year, imports of various materials and equipment amounted to $37,516 million, or 67.2 percent of Korea's overall imports totaling $55,744 million during the 10-month period.

The 67.2-percent share reflects an increase of 3.9 percentage points over the 63.3-percent share recorded for the same period last year. It also was the highest level reported in the eight years since 1982, when the share was 73.8 percent.

The share of materials and equipment imports dipped to 56.7 percent in 1985 and 56.4 percent in 1987, but it rose again to 58.8 percent in 1988 and 63.6 percent in 1989.

The rise was ascribed mainly to Korean enterprises' reluctance to import raw materials for exports, while remaining bent on increasing imports of consumer goods and equipment for domestic consumption.

In the first 10 months of this year, imports of raw materials and equipment for export processing reached $18,328 million, off 0.9 percent from the same period last year, while imports of various materials and equipment for domestic consumption marked a rise of 17.7 percent over the same period last year.

Officials at the office said that it is urgent for the government to review its policy to encourage domestic consumption now that Korea's current account has gone from black to red ink.

Minister Urges Political, Social Trade Awareness

SK0412121790 Seoul YONHAP in English 0957 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Brussels, Dec. 4 (YONHAP)—South Korean Trade and Industry Minister Pak Pil-su, speaking in a ministerial meeting of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade Tuesday, called on negotiators of all countries to consider political and social aspects of agriculture in discussing global free trade of farm products.

"The Uruguay Round negotiations on farm products should be made in such a manner as to place some exceptions on the application of the principle of trade liberalization by securing an adequate balance between trade and non-trade factors of agriculture," Pak said. Touching on textile issue, Pak called on the need to secure devices to guarantee fair treatment among suppliers and eliminate users' chances of employing unfair treatment for particular suppliers. He also stressed that service talks should be maintained on the basis of respect for the principle of most-favored-nation treatment and understanding of particular situations facing some countries which feel the need to open its market gradually for the backwardness of domestic industry. All countries in the negotiations should try their best to achieve a common aim of cutting tariffs more than 30 percent and abolish high-tariff barriers, Pak added.

Charges of Human Rights Violations Refuted

SK0412053090 Seoul YONHAP in English 0412 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 4 (YONHAP)—The South Korean Justice Ministry on Tuesday accused a New York-based human rights organization of having a "biased view lacking objectivity" for saying that Korea discriminates against "unconverted leftist" prisoners in a manner similar to that of Cuba in the 1980s.

Asia Watch's latest monthly report charges that the Korean Government discriminates against or excludes from special amnesties 57 leftists who refuse to sign a document of conversion.

In a statement, the ministry said it regretted that Asia Watch had made the charges "without precisely understanding our National Security Law and considering the specific security situation of Korea." It denied trying to force the communists, who are mostly North Korean spies, to renounce their beliefs against their will.

"The Justice Ministry implements the same rectification instructions on unconverted inmates as other prisoners in order to help them return to society as citizens of a liberal democracy by implanting in them respect for the South Korean system and for law and order," the statement said. It said leftists are treated exactly the same as other prisoners and do not receive discriminatory treatment, but are not allowed to contact ordinary inmates to prevent them from propagating communism.

Kim Tae-chung Urges Change in Shareholder Deal

SK0412054390 Seoul YONHAP in English 0452 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 4 (YONHAP)—Opposition leader Kim Tae-chung called Tuesday on President No Tae-u to nullify the selection of Taeyong Corp. as the main shareholder of South Korea's first commercial broadcasting network. "The selection of Taeyong as main shareholder awarded a net income of 50 billion won a year to the company. President No should nullify the selection and consider the matter all over again," Kim told lawmakers of his party for peace and democracy.

The government created suspicion by offering "administrative guidance" to Taeyong only and "higher government authority" seemed to be involved in the selection, he said. "Another reason for suspicion is that the government accepted applications first and then made up qualifications that suited its choice, while qualifications should be announced first and then a candidate that meets them should be selected," he said.

Calling Taeyong a state-nurtured company that has "many problems" concerning real estate speculation and stock sales, Kim said the network should be owned by the people. "Since broadcasting belongs to the people, stocks of the new commercial network should be distributed to the people so the profits from broadcasting return to them," he said.

Kim said his party would seek to prolong inspections of the government by the education and information, the defense and the agriculture, forestry and fisheries committees because they had not heard as many witnesses as needed. He said the National Assembly should hold a hearing into the merger and closure of mass media in 1980 by the military. He also said the government purchase price of rice should be raised by as much as last year, when the price of Tongil rice increased 12 percent and that of ordinary rice 14 percent. The amount should also exceed last year's, he said, calling for the government to buy 11.74 million bags or 1.69 million tons.

The government has announced that it will buy 1.08 million tons of rice at prices 5 percent higher for Tongil rice and 10 percent higher for ordinary rice than last year.

TV Shareholder Choice Defended

SK3011100790 Seoul YONHAP in English 0722 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 30 (YONHAP)—Information Minister Choe Pyong-yol defended his selection of the 31 shareholders in South Korea's new commercial broadcasting network Friday, saying he had acted within the pertinent laws.

Reacting to opposition leader Kim Tae-chung's accusation that he abused his power in choosing Taeyoung Corp. As the main shareholder, Choe said he had an inter-ministerial committee make the selection so it was done "in a reasonable way."

"The information minister has the right to recommend candidates for permission to open radio stations. There is no legal problem for the minister to exercise the right to recommend instead of forming a governmental organization for deliberation, but I had formed the organization by going through cabinet procedures and had it select the main shareholder in a reasonable way," he said.

Kim, president of the Party for Peace and Democracy, demanded earlier Friday that the government cancel the selection of Taeyoung and 30 other shareholders of the new network it announced on Oct. 31, and accused Choe of abusing his right to recommend by forming a lineup of shareholders.

"The government's selection of Taeyoung Corp. As the main shareholder of the new commercial broadcasting network has been found wrong in the course of the National Assembly's interpellation of the government," he said.

Choe said his ministry chose candidates for part ownership of the network and their shares by studying their financial condition.

He said, "It was necessary to control the capital disbursal for the sake of stable management of the network, as all the applicants wanted to have a sizeable share while the total is limited to 100 billion won... The government intervened in alloting the shares as a broadcasting company is different from a general enterprise."

On reports the government did not announce the qualifications for the main shareholder because it had already chosen Taeyoung, Choe said, "The core of the screening standards were made known in newspaper advertisements before applications were accepted... The standards announced after the selection were like the screening standards used in school entrance tests."

On Kim's argument that Taeyoung is disqualified because it is financially weak, Choe said, "Taeyoung's debt stands at less than 200 percent of its equity capital and it shows very sound management compared with other companies. Taeyoung will have no problem coming up with the 30 billion won to finance its share of the broadcasting company."

Taeyoung President Yun Se-yong, whom Kim said is a former member of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP), was a member of the Democratic Justice Party, which became the DLP in a merger with two opposition parties, Choe said.

"Yun was a member of the DJP and was inadvertently listed as a DLP member after the merger, but after he found out he was a member he resigned," Choe said.

On a suit filed by the TONG-A ILBO daily newspaper for the return of the Tong-A Broadcasting System (TBS) radio station, which it owned before the government's forcible merger of TBS into the state-run Korea Broadcasting System in 1980, Choe said, "the court may decide in favor of returning the channel (from the present owner, Radio Seoul, to Tong-A), but the broadcasting law prohibits a print media from owning a radio network."

When Taeyoung, a relatively little known construction company, was declared the main shareholder of the new network, a public outcry of government favoritism was stirred up.

The ministry came under fire for having failed to make public the qualifications for a successful candidate or the standards of screening before accepting applications.

Taeyong Denies Favoritism

SK0412021990 Seoul YONHAP in English 0142 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 4 (YONHAP)—Yun se-yong, president of the Taeyong Corp., denied charges that political favoritism won him selection as main shareholder of a new commercial broadcasting network in testimony before a National Assembly panel Monday.

"I decided to go into broadcasting in mid-September after I saw an advertisement on selection of shareholders for the new commercial network. I was never urged or asked to join the network ownership," he told the National Assembly Culture and Information Committee.

Rep. Choe Chae-uk of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) asked Yun if his company had issued 19 billion won of debentures early this year and 10.7 billion won of preference shares in August to pay for establishment of the network.

Yun said the money was raised to purchase land for apartments and had nothing to do with the network. He said he would open a radio station early next year and a TV station by year's end.

"We are writing applications for the permit to open the radio station and will submit them to the authorities next week. Selection of staff is in the final stage and may be announced this week," he said.

Responding to charges that conglomerates are behind his company, Yun said, "Samyang Co. Ltd. and Yukong Line LTD., a Sunkyong group subsidiary, own 8 percent and 7 percent respectively of a Taeyong subsidiary in Ulsan, but they are linked with Taeyong for the business of grain storage and not for broadcasting."

He said Taeyong's office building on Yoido, an islet in the Han River where broadcasting stations are clustered, was found to be suitable for a studio in a recent inspection. He said he had formed a consortium with shareholders who own 22 percent of the new broadcasting company to secure full control (Taeyong has 30 percent) but declined to say who they were.

"The Seoul Broadcasting System is expected to run a deficit until 1993 but will be in the black in 1994. I estimate the surplus to be around 1 billion won in 1994 and 13 billion won in 1995," he said. Of the 30 billion won start-up costs, Yun said 15 billion won came from selling stock and spare cash in Taeyong's operating fund and the rest would come from payments for construction work due this month.

Earlier in the day, Information Minister Choe Pyong-yol said he had been within the law in deciding the shareholders of the network. "It was a correct act of administration for the information minister to form a list of shareholders for the commercial broadcasting network as it is his right to recommend candidates," Choe told the committee. The major opposition Party for Peace and Democracy claims that Choe abused his power by selecting the shareholders and his power is limited to recommendation. A proposal for a public hearing on the commercial network was defeated by 11 votes to four with one abstention.

Burma

Visiting PRC Delegations' Activities Reported

Police Chief Visits

BK2711142590 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Text] A visiting four-member delegation from the PRC headed by Mr. (Yuan Yunngan), deputy director general of the Drugs Control Division under the Public Security Ministry, called on U San Thein, secretary of the Central Narcotic Drugs Control Board [CNDCB] and director general of the People's Police Force, at the CNDCB conference hall in the Ministry of Home and Religious Affairs at 0800 today.

Drug Control Delegation Departs

BK2911144490 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] A four-member delegation from the PRC headed by Mr. (Yuan Yunngan), deputy director general of the Drug Control Division under the Public Security Ministry, which arrived in Myanmar [Burma] on 21 November to witness the destruction of narcotic drugs seized in Yangon [Rangoon] as well as the burning of opium, brown opium, heroin, chemicals, machinery, and buildings at the heroin refinery plant near Lawkai village in Kokang region, northern Shan State, left by air this afternoon. The delegation members also studied and held discussions on the narcotics control programs during their stay in Myanmar.

The PRC delegation was seen off at Yangon airport by Police Colonel Ngwe Soe Tun, joint secretary of the Central Narcotic Drugs Control Board and director for narcotics of the People's Police Force Headquarters, and Police Lieutenant Colonel Soe Tint, deputy director of narcotics.

Trade Minister Visits

BK3011144090 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] A PRC delegation headed by Mr. Tang Zhongwen, vice minister of the Ministry for Machine Building and Electronics, accompanied by Brigadier General Myo Thant, director of signals of the Ministry of Defense, visited the Shwedagon Pagoda at 0815 today.

At 1330 today, the vice minister, Mr. Tang Zhongwen, and his delegation called on Brigadier General Abel, minister for finance and planning and for trade at the Ministry of Trade.

Present at the meeting were U Maung Maung Kyaw, director general of the Directorate of Trade; U Min Aung, director general of the Budget Department of the Ministry of Finance and Planning; U Maung Maung Han, chairman of the Central Bank of the Union of Myanmar; and Mr. Cheng Ruisheng. Frank and cordial talks on the bilateral economic and trade matters were discussed during the meeting.

At 1410 the PRC delegation left Nanthida Jetty in a special launch and inspected the Yangon-Syriam River Bridge Construction Project and left the site at 1500. The delegation then left Nanthida Jetty in motor vehicles and visited the satellite earth station of the Myanmar Communications Enterprise at Toegyaungale in Thingangyun Township. The PRC vice minister and his delegation were briefed on use of telephone and television services via satellite by U Soe Tha, director of the Myanmar Communications Enterprise; Lieutenant Colonel Kyi Lwin, director general of the Department of Information and Broadcasting; and responsible officials. After the briefing the PRC delegation inspected the satellite earth station and left the station at 1715.

Vice Minister's Tours Noted

BK0412154290 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Excerpts] The visiting PRC delegation headed by Mr. Tang Zhongwen, vice minister of the Ministry for Machine Building and Electronics, in the company of Brigadier General Myo Thant, director of signals, and Lieutenant General Than Htut of the Ministry of Defense, left Yangon for Pagan Nyaung-u by a special plane at 0730 on 2 December. [passage omitted]

On the morning of 3 December, Mr. Tang Zhongwen and members of his delegation left Pagan Nyaung-u for Sandoway where they were welcomed at the airport by Lieutenant Colonel Maung Maung Sein, chairman of Sandoway Township Zone Law and Order Restoration Council, and responsible officials. [passage omitted]

This morning, the PRC delegation left Sandoway for Yangon. In the evening, Brig Gen Abel held a banquet at the People's Park Restaurant for the PRC vice minister and his delegation.

Over 30 Dissidents Arrested in Border Town

BK0512093090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0826 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Excerpt] Bangkok, Dec 5 (AFP)—More than 30 pro-democracy dissidents have been arrested over the past few days in a Burmese border town in a continued crackdown against opponents of Rangoon's military junta, Thai military and business sources said Wednesday.

The Burmese authorities had closed the border following the arrest of a total of 33 people in Myawadi, some five kilometers (three miles) from Thailand's northern border, the sources at the border said.

Analysts viewed the arrests as a sign of continued crackdown by Rangoon on dissidents demanding a civilian government in the aftermath of the crushing victory won by the main pro-democracy opposition party, the National League for Democracy (NLD) in general elections earlier this year.

The military, which seized power over two years ago in a bloody coup in Burma to crush nationwide protests and strikes in support of demands for the installation of Western-style democracy, has shunned a power transfer. [passage omitted]

Seven NLD Representatives Declared Absconders

BK0412145890 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] U Bo Hla Tint of Mogok Constituency-2; U Thein Oo of Mandalay Southwest Township Constituency-2; U Hla Pe of Pyawbwe Constituency-2; U Win Ko of Ye-U Constituency-2; and U Mya Win, Ingabu Constituency-1—all of whom are People's Assembly representatives of the National League for Democracy [NLD]; and U Peter Lin Bin of Pyin-u Lwin Constituency-2; and Dr. Sann Aung of Ingabu Constituency-2—both of whom are NLD members and independent People's Assembly representatives—were discovered to have participated in the holding of clandestine meetings in September and October to discuss the formation of a parallel government in Mandalay and an interim government underground. While efforts were being made to take legal action against them, they were found to have absconded.

Charges were filed against the seven on 3 December at the Bahan Township Court under Sections 5A, 5B, and 5E of the 1950 Emergency Provisions Act and under Procedural Code 512. The court has declared them as abscondees.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Minister Hopes GATT Talks Produce Results

BK3011133190 Kuala Lumpur RTM Television Network 1 in Malay 1200 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] Malaysia hopes that the final round of GATT talks in Brazil will produce concrete results. An agreement reached by countries grouped in GATT will enable Malaysian products to penetrate new international markets with lower tariffs.

Datuk Sri Paduka Rafidah Aziz, minister of international trade and industry, who will represent Malaysia at the meeting in Brussels, disclosed Malaysia's expectations from the meeting.

[Begin Rafidah Aziz recording] We all know that Malaysia's economy heavily depends on the international market in such areas as agriculture, primary commodities, and industrial products. Therefore, if we manage to obtain certain concessions for the export of our products to other countries, especially the developed countries which will reduce or remove their tariffs, we will be able to sell more of our products, penetrate new markets, and become more competitive. [end recording]

Forestry Agreement Signed With Indonesia 30 Nov

BK0112073190 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0618 GMT 1 Dec 90

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Dec 1 (OANA-ANTARA)—Indonesia and Malaysia have agreed to carry out more cooperation programs in the field of forestry, the forestry ministers of the two countries announced here Friday afternoon.

Among such programs are a social forestry seminar to be held in Malaysia early 1991, exchange of information on rattan and bamboo processing, and forestry management courses.

The agreement was adopted at the closing of the meeting between Indonesian Forestry Minister Hasyrul Harahap and his Malaysian counterpart Lim Keng Yaik.

Minister Harahap, during a press conference marking the end of the meeting, also expressed the hope that EC members would soon have better understanding on the forestry policy of ASEAN nations (Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand).

He was supported by Minister Lim who said the just-concluded meeting reflected the solid committment of ASEAN nations to preserve its forests.

ASEAN has sent a ministerial level delegation to Europe led by Minister Harahap to explain that there was no truth in the reports that the association's members had carried out irresponsible logging, he said. Minister Lim also said: If after the explanation, some countries still tried to boycott our timber, obviously we would retaliate. However, he did not specify the form of retaliation he or his counterpart Minister Harahap might take.

Local authorities in Germany, Britain, Belgium, and the Netherlands are reported to have boycotted tropical hardwood imports.

Singapore

Malaysian Forces Officials Meet Goh Chok Tong

BK3011122590 Singapore Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] Senior officers in the Malaysian Armed Forces and the Defense Ministry paid a courtesy call on the prime minister, Mr. Goh Chok Tong, at the Istana [Palace] this afternoon. Mr. Goh, who is also the defense minister met the Malaysian chief of defense force, General Tan Sri Datuk Hashim Mohamed Ali, and the Malaysian Defense Ministry secretary general, Datuk Nasruddin Bahari.

Later, the Malaysian officers called on the second defense minister and the minister for communications, Dr. Yeo Ning Hong.

While in Singapore, about 30 other senior officers took part in the biannual golfing (?tournament) between the Defense Ministries of both countries.

Rapid Growth in Trade With SRV Noted

BK0312114890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1145 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Singapore, Dec 3 (AFP)—Singapore's trade with Vietnam jumped six-fold in seven years, making the city-state Hanoi's second largest trading partner in the non-communist world after Japan, the BUSINESS TIMES reported Monday.

The daily, quoting statistics from Vietnam's Commerce Ministry, showed that two-way trade jumped from 50 million U.S. dollars in 1982 to 306 million U.S. dollars last year.

Singapore's Trade Development Board (TDB) declined to confirm or deny the figures, which put the island republic just behind Japan on the list of Vietnam's non-communist trading partners.

The government here has prevented its citizens from investing in Vietnam and Cambodia, where resistance movements supported by Singapore are seeking to oust a Hanoi-backed government. But Singapore has no bar on trade.

The BUSINESS TIMES said Vietnam enjoyed a slight trade surplus with Singapore last year as its exports here shot up to 190 million dollars from 142 million dollars in 1988.

It said Vietnam's exports to the island involved agricultural products, rice and maize, coffee, rubber, seafood, crude oil, scrap iron and hides.

The Vietnamese imported from Singapore items including PVC [polyvinyl chloride] plastic, petroleum products, fertilisers, electronics, sewing machines, consumer goods, milk, soft drinks and fabrics.

The newspaper said that major Singapore firms involved in trade with Vietnam included the Cold Storage Group, British-American Tobacco Co. (Singapore) Ltd. and Rothmans of Pall Mall (Singapore).

Cambodia

Hun Sen Visits Svay Rieng Province

Attends Ceremony

BK0312080790 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0440 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK December 3—A pipal tree planting ceremony was held in the provincial town of Svay Rieng province, 125 km southeast of Phnom Penh, on December 2 in the presence of Prime Minister Hun Sen.

The ceremony was also attended by 80 Buddhist monks, 10,000 Buddhist followers, and local inhabitants.

The twelve pipal trees, handed over in Phnom Penh recently by Indian Charge d'Affairs Ringing Wangdi, and a sprout of "Salpreuk" tree (another kind of sacred fig-tree or banyan) were planted in front of the Sakyakmuni Chedei in the capital city and other places of worship in various provinces, including Svay Rieng Province.

Speaking on the occassion, Prime Minister Hun Sen detailed the relationship between Buddha and the pipal and Salpreuk trees (Buddha was born under a Salpreuk tree and meditated his spiritual discipline and achieved supreme enlightenment under a pipal tree).

He said that the Republic of India provided the State of Cambodia with those pipal trees to help the Cambodian people, most of whom are Buddhist followers, to revive Buddhism, which was suppressed during the nearly four-year reign of the genocidal Pol Pot regime between 1975 and 1979.

He wished that the thriving of the pipal trees would be a symbol for bringing peace to Cambodia and getting rid of the war and sufferings among the people.

Present on the occasion, among others, were Kong Sam-ol, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers; Min Khin, general secretary of the United Front for Construction and Defense of the Kampuchea Fatherland, and Heng Samkai, secretary of the provincial party committee.

The ceremony was followed by a traditional offering of rice—the "Roapbat"—to the Buddhist monks.

Pipal tree planing ceremonies were recently held in the capital city of Phnom Penh and the provincial towns of Kompong Cham and Battambang.

Hun Sen on KUFNCD Anniversary

BK0412131790 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Summary] "A mass meeting was held in the provincial town of Svay Rieng on the morning of 2 December to celebrate the 12th anniversary of the founding of the Kampuchean United Front for National Construction and Defense [KUFNCD]. The meeting took place in the presence of Comrade Hun Sen, Political Bureau member of the party Central Committee and chairman of the Council of Ministers of the State of Cambodia. Attending the meeting were comrades from the provincial party and people's committees, front leadership, and mass organizations; cadres, personnel, and workers from various offices and services in the province; and inhabitants, ethnic people, soldiers, policemen, and students totalling more than 5,000 persons."

After Comrade Heng Samkai, member of the party Central Committee and secretary of the Svay Rieng Provincial Party Committee, had opened the meeting, Hun Sen made a significant speech as follows:

[Begin Hun Sen recording] Dear compatriots: As we are celebrating the 12th founding anniversary of the KUFNCD, I would like to tell all of you that I am very pleased to come to Svay Rieng again. I will never forget the day I joined all of you in celebrating our 7 January National Day earlier this year. Today I come here at the head of a party and government delegation to bring a pipal tree for all of you. It happens that today, too, is the founding day of our front. The comrade party committee secretary has just described this occasion in his speech. I am not going to repeat what he just said but I would like to add that on 2 December 1978 our national soul was once again revived as we set up an organization for the struggle to salvage our fatherland from the Pol Pot regime.

We take this opportunity to pay deep homage to the memory of those who perished in the reign of terror. Their memory gives us added determination to fight to prevent the Pol Pot regime's attempt to return to power. It was thanks to 2 December 1978 that 7 January 1979—the day of national revival—became a reality. I met with all of you on the 11th National Day. Just a few days more and we will celebrate our 7 January National Day for the 12th time.

It is true that for 12 years after liberation from the genocidal policy of the Pol Pot regime, we have suffered badly as we have had to start rebuilding our country from scratch and because we have had to fight countless wars of destruction waged by the Polpotists and their allies, the Sihanoukists and Sonsannians. Just thinking of all of that hardship can make all of us proud of all the achievements we have made in our present daily life.

"We have now passed the worst part of our struggle for rebirth. We now reach the stage of national rehabilitation and development. However, allow me to warn all of you that we must still experience difficulties: the threat from the genocidal regime has not yet been completely dispelled."

Despite our goodwill, the talks to bring peace to the Cambodian problem have not yet proved successful. "This is because the Cambodians on the other side, with Sihanouk as their ringleader and Pol Pot as their backbone, continues to nurture the adventurous ambition of winning victory through military means. They once killed millions of people. For this reason, they do not hesitate to continue the destructive war against our Cambodian people. We have fulfilled the so-called conditions for a political solution by completely withdrawing the Vietnamese troops from Cambodia and making concessions at many talks and various other forums." The other side has never been sincere in the search for a political solution. They keep trying to win militarily and to bring back to power the genocidal Pol Pot regime.

"What is the original reason for the current impasse? It is the ambition of the Sihanoukists and Sonsannians, with Pol Pot in their midst, to try to achieve a military victory. This is the real cause of the deadlock in the search for a political solution to the Cambodian problem.

"I would like to inform all Buddhist monks and all compatriots that, following a meeting with a U.S. official in Paris and maybe because this U.S. official suggested that he would try to pull Samdech Sihanouk away from the Polpotists, Samdech Sihanouk became very worried. He announced through his representative in Bangkok that he could not abandon the Polpotists and that the Polpotists should not be excluded from a political solution. Although Voice of America and the radios of other countries did not pick this up, AFP clearly reported Samdech Sihanouk's insistence that he could not abandon the Polpotists. This is the main cause of the impasse in the search for a political solution."

The Cambodians on the other side only pay lip service on their desire for a political solution. They have no goodwill to find a political solution. They want only for world opinion to blame the State of Cambodia for blocking a political solution.

In addition to being the 12th anniversary of our KUFNCD, today is also the third anniversary of the talks between Samdech Sihanouk and myself. It was three years ago to the day that I met for the first time with Sihanouk in Paris. "No agreement, however, has been agreed upon to end the sufferings of our people who have had to endure war for the past 20 years. This is because the other side makes one step forward and two steps backward."

Samdech Sihanouk has made himself an obstacle to the Cambodian solution. He boycotted the Jakarta meeting and feigned sickness. As a result, he was not listed in the Supreme National Council [SNC]. "Because of the samdech, the SNC could not proceed with its session and because of that, despite the framework document of the big five and the document of the meeting between the big five and the co-chairmen of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia [PICC], nothing could be achieved, for without the SNC working properly there can be no solution to the Cambodian problem."

It is evident that the Cambodians on the other side sabotaged the Jakarta informal meetings, the PICC, the agreements I signed with Samdech Sihanouk in Bangkok and Tokyo, and even the latest Jakarta meeting, which issued the important document that set up the SNC. "Although they have not had complete success, they are damaging the effectiveness of the document agreed upon in Jakarta and of the already established SNC. And they are using Sihanouk as an obstacle to the function of the SNC."

I would like to inform you of two most current issues, one of which is known only to just a few select members of the National Council.

I discussed the first issue during a press briefing reported by the radio and television. This is to illustrate what I meant by taking one step forward and two backward. "On 25 November Samdech Sihanouk sent a letter to Mr. Son Sann, Khieu Samphan, Norodom Ranariddh, and myself inviting the four Cambodian factions to attend a meeting in Paris as soon as possible. Mr. Son Sann exploited the occasion by stressing in an interview with VOA that the three factions had already accepted the invitation and only the Phnom Penh faction remained to give its answer. He did this in an attempt to pressure me into attending the meeting, an outdated meeting. Samdech Sihanouk signed the letter on 25 November and it reached me on 27 November. On 29 November I answered that I was not going to attend the quadripartite meeting.

"If I was correct, that would not be a meeting of the four Cambodian factions. It would be a meeting of five Cambodian factions because Samdech Sihanouk addressed me as the head of the Phnom Penh government, Son Sann as a faction, Ranariddh as a faction, Khieu Samphan as another, and the samdech himself as another faction above all else. The samdech tried the trick during the third Hun Sen-Sihanouk meeting in France in 1988. But he failed in that dark scheme because I rejected it. Because the samdech is a party in the conflict, he should not be placed above anyone else. He could be above Sihanouk, Son Sann, Khieu Samphan, or Ranariddh, but not above the Phnom Penh government, for a football player just cannot be allowed to be both referee and player at the same time.

"Another reason is that whether it is pentapartite, quadripartite, or bipartite, this meeting is unacceptable. Why? Because it is out of date. If I agreed to attend such a meeting, it would seriously jeopardize the existence of the SNC, which remains at a standstill because of Samdech Sihanouk."

Let me go back into the past a litte to show you how the other side made one step forward and then two backward. I went to Tokyo at the beginning of June and signed an agreement with Sihanouk to set up the SNC with an equal number of members from both sides. And an annex added that the SNC should meet no later than July 1990. After the Khmer Rouge raised an objection, the Jakarta meeting was called again to set up the SNC. I was urged to attend, but I refused because the SNC had already been agreed upon between Sihanouk and me in Tokyo. After much prompting by countries concerned, I conceded and thus saved the Jakarta meeting, which agreed on a 12-member SNC. Now they have asked me to meet again to finalize the SNC. "I have refused to go. Why should we waste time and money. The SNC has already been established. The money that would be spent on plane tickets and hotels should be spent, rather, on digging wells and building bridges and schools for the people. So, I am not going. What is more dangerous is that they want to hold the quadripartite meeting to undermine the SNC."

The SNC has already been established. "Everything should be settled within the framework of the 12-member SNC. We can no longer retrace our steps. That would be unacceptable nonsense." This is why I refused to go.

"On 29 November I made that announcement and—this, as I said, is the latest development that even many leaders and the people in Phnom Penh do not know yet—on 30 November Samdech Sihanouk sent a letter through the pouch from Paris to Phnom Penh. Let me quote it: For this reason I take the liberty of inviting Your Excellency and five other personalities who are members of your party and of the SNC to come to Paris at the earliest date possible in order to attend an informal meeting with me and six other personalities of the Cambodian national resistance movement who are members of the SNC, with the aim of accelerating the return of peace to Cambodia.

"I do not understand why Samdech Sihanouk invited the SNC to meet with him. This is beyond me. I was invited to establish the SNC, then to finalize its establishment, and then to attend a quadripartite meeting. Now, a person who is not even a member of the SNC turns up to invite SNC members to meet with him. This is beyond my understanding. I have not taken any definitive stance yet. But I have discussed this with some SNC members in Phnom Penh and sent a telegram about this development to another in Paris, namely Foreign Minister Hor Namhong. Frankly, I do not understand why Samdech Sihanouk proposed that the SNC should meet with him. He attempted to become the chairman as the 13th member. We have objected because this is unfair and unjust and because the other side abused us legally, morally, and in terms of goodwill. I as well as other SNC members cannot accept Samdech Sihanouk as SNC chairman and 13th member." This would be a violation of the Jakarta document.

"It is true that at first we wanted to have Samdech Sihanouk as chairman and Hun Sen as vice chairman. But because the other side abused our goodwill, we were forced to leave Samdech Sihanouk outside the SNC. We thus put forward the co-chairmen, rotational co-chairmen, or rotational chairman formulas. Now, I have announced that I will not become an SNC vice chairman. This means that Samdech Sihanouk will not become SNC chairman, either. Not only will he be barred from being SNC chairman, but he will also not be allowed to become a member of the SNC. This is because Samdech Sihanouk has tied a noose around his own neck and Son Sann, Khieu Samphan, and other of his men are pulling on it.

"However, if the other side made a correct, fair proposal, if it made a written proposal with due respect to the ways of the law, goodwill, and morality, we might reconsider in order to amend the SNC and its membership already established in Jakarta."

The State of Cambodia is trying by all means to achieve a political solution. We have been accused of hardening our stance. This is not true. We want a political solution to bring an early end to the war. "This political solution, however, must be based on the following conditions:

"1. It must prevent the return of the genocidal Pol Pot regime;

"2. It must not dissolve the Phnom Penh Government;

"3. It must not dismantle the armed forces before elections; and

"4. No country or international organization should violate the sovereignty of Cambodia."

We have been accused of wanting to keep power. Our answer is: That is right. We want to keep power because we are already in possession of this power which is necessary to protect our people against the return of the genocidal Pol Pot regime. We have much better reason than the other side to maintain power. The other side does not have power and it is fighting by all means to get it, whereas we already have it and want only to keep it for the good of the people.

"On this occasion, I would like to appeal to all compatriots in Svay Rieng Province to heighten vigilance and strive to build and consolidate the armed forces, making them ready to attack and defeat any military onslaughts. It is true that Svay Rieng has no insurgency problem, but Svay Rieng has sent many of its combatants to other battlefields throughout the country and has incorporated many of its combatants into the regular army units. I can say that Svay Rieng should be proud of its national defense duty record. Almost 70 to 85 percent of our officers come from Svay Rieng Province because it suffered the most under the Polpotists. In the past, it was called Region 23-24, where most of the killing took place. It was also the cradle of the KUFNCD. Most of the front members and armed forces originated from the Svay Rieng-Prey Veng area." You should therefore continue to intensify this tradition.

I also appeal to all compatriots to increase production during this harvest season. Without sufficient food we cannot withstand prolonged warfare. I also call on you to help the families of fallen and disabled soldiers and front-line combatants in order to boost the morale of our soldiers. Moreover, I appeal to you to contribute to the fight against corruption and other negative practices in our society. I thank all of you and praise you for the great achievements in the province. Thanks for the warm welcome you have accorded me and my delegation. Best wishes to all of you. [applause] [end recording]

"The ceremony ended in a joyous atmosphere of solidarity and determination to frustrate all attempts to bring the genocidal Pol Pot regime back to start massacring the people again."

Heng Samrin, Party Leave for Vientiane

BK3011122290 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1108 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK November 30—Heng Samrin, general secretary of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea Central Committee and president of the State Council, left here this afternoon for Vientiane, Laos, to participate in the celebrations of the national day of the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Dec. 2).

President Heng Samrin and his party were seen off at the Pochentong airport by Chea Sim, Politburo member of the party Central Committee and chairman of both the National Assembly and the National Council of the United Front for Construction and Defense; Hun Sen, Politburo member of the party Central Committee and chairmn of the Council of Ministers; Chea Soth, Politburo member of the party Central Committee and vice chairman of the Council of Ministers; and others.

Laos charge d'affaires A.I. Sampangvanit [word indistinct] was also on hand.

Chea Sim Speaks at Lao National Day Rally

BK0312032290 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 1 Dec 90

[Speech by Chea Sim, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of both the National Assembly and the front's National Council, at a meeting in Phnom Penh on 1 December to mark Lao National Day—recorded]

[Summary from poor reception] On behalf of the party, government, the front, the Cambodian people, and in my own name, I would like to congratulate the fraternal Lao party, government, and people on their 15th National Day.

"The Cambodian people would like to sincerely and most proudly congratulate the successes of the Lao party, government, and people and consider these as their own, using them as brilliant experiences for socio-economic development in Cambodia. The Cambodian party, government, and people fully support the Lao People's Democratic Republic's foreign policy of peace, independence, friendship, and cooperation on the basis of equality, mutual respect for each other's sovereignty, and non-interference in other states' internal affairs."

"We highly appreciate the Lao party and government for making efforts to solve the Lao-Thai border dispute peacefully and for efforts to normalize Lao-Chinese relations for the benefit of neighboring nations with the aim of coexisting peacefully as good neighbors and for stability and cooperation in the region."

With the good fortune of having good relations with neighboring countries in the region and the world, the State of Cambodia has succesively put forward proposals and adhered to a flexible attitude to quickly end the bloodshed in Cambodia.

"Without genuine goodwill to solve the conflict, the other side has created obstacles by insisting on the election of Samdech Sihanouk as chairman of the Supreme National Council [SNC] although the samdech's name is not on the list of the SNC composition. The other side still shamelessly shouts and says that Vietnam and the Phnom Penh administration are the ones who obstruct the process to find a solution to the Cambodian problem. Along with this, they continue to receive a lot of military aid and hide it inside the country to prepare for (?a protracted) war."

"In fact, the issue worth paying attention to in ending the war in Cambodia is not the election of Samdech Sihanouk as the SNC chairman. The main issues are the cease-fire, the end of foreign military aid, and the organization of free elections in Cambodia. The State of Cambodia's stance is that the SNC will hand over power to the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC] to organize elections in a neutral political atmosphere. However, UNTAC should respect Cambodia's sovereignty, which is the main principle of the United Nations. To ensure normal life in the country, the two governments should continue their work while the United Nations will have the role of organizing the election and supervising whatever the Cambodian parties have agreed upon. Neither UNTAC nor the SNC have the power to dissolve these two governments. UNTAC has the task of only checking relevant activities to ensure free and fair elections. This means that UNTAC has nothing to do with the adminstration of Cambodia."

"In the military field, the reduction of troops, the disarming and dissolution of troops, even gradually, cannot be done for this would [passage indistinct] the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea. Therefore, the army issue will be solved by the new elected government."

"Concerning the genocide issue, which is the main issue in the Cambodian conflict, every agreement on a solution to the Cambodian problem should clearly mention that all Cambodian parties (? abide by) the UN treaty on preventing and punishing genocidal crimes. Furthermore, to assist in the election of the SNC chairman, the State of Cambodia's government proposes the formula of cochairmanship [sahak prathean] or rotational cochairmanship [sahak prathean phdo ven] in accordance with the principle of equality between the two governments. The State of Cambodia still has genuine goodwill to quickly end the war. The principled view and stance of the State of Cambodia, and also the sacred aspiration of the Cambodian people, is that we want genuine and long-lasting peace with clear guarantees on the nonreturn of the genocidal Pol Pot regime and the respect of Cambodia's independence and sovereignty, and the Cambodian people's right to self-determination."

The Cambodian party and government congratulate and welcome the improvement of international relations to end the cold war and reduce tension in the world.

"Dear comrades and friends: On this solemn occasion, the Cambodian party, government, and entire people are very happy to note that the relations of friendship and solidarity and multiform cooperation between Cambodia and Laos have constantly strengthened and blossomed in accordance with the treaty of peace, friendship, and cooperation signed by the two countries on 22 March 1979. We would like to express profound gratitude to the fraternal Lao party, government, and people for providing wholehearted support and assistance, morally and materially, to the just cause of the Cambodian revolution. The Cambodian party, government, and people will continue to nurture the relations of [words indistinct], last forever for the common benefits of the three Indochinese people and to serve the noble interests of the cause for peace and social progress in the region and the world."

Sends Greetings to Laos

BK0512094590 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Comrade Chea Sim, chairman of the Kampuchean United Front for National Construction and Defense [KUFNCD] National Council, sent greetings to Comrade Phoumi Vongvichit, chairman of the Lao National Construction Front [LNCF] Central Committee, on the 15th anniversary of the founding of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR].

The message says, among other things:

I would like to express warm greetings and cordial congratulations to the fraternal LNCF on behalf of the KUFNCD National Council and the Cambodian people and in my own name.

During the past 15 years under the leadership of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP], the LNCF has mobilized the great strength of the Kampuchean [as heard] people and made immense achievements in the economic and cultural revival, construction, and consolidation, greatly contributing to the defense of peace by the armed forces of the three Indochinese peoples and to the defense of peace in Southeast Asia and the world.

For these great achievements and sacrifices, the position and prestige of the LPDR have grown steadily and been brought to new heights in the world. Feeling extremely proud of all the successes won by the fraternal Lao people, our Cambodian people regard them as their own.

The implementation of the Fourth LPRP Congress resolutions will surely bring more and greater successes to the construction and defense of Laos, ushering in development, prosperity, and happiness.

We highly appreciate the consistent and firm support accorded by the fraternal Lao party, government, front, and people to the national reconciliation policy of our State of Cambodia at all international forums and to the Cambodian people's struggle against the genocidal Pol Pot regime's attempt to return to power and for the building of an independent, peaceful, neutral, and nonaligned State of Cambodia.

We firmly believe that the friendly relations and traditional solidarity between Cambodia and Laos will continue to grow and develop in the superior interest of our two parties, states, and peoples, for the common cause of peace, freedom, and well-being in Indochina, and in the interest of peace, security, and social progress in Southeast Asia and the world.

I wish you and all the comrades in the LNCF Central Committee and, through you, all fraternal Lao people the best of health and more successes in all noble new tasks.

May the bonds of solidarity, friendship, and cooperation between our two parties, fronts, and peoples become firmer and stronger and last forever.

Leaders Greet Lao Counterparts on National Day

BK0312125390 Phnom Penh SPK in English
1057 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK December 3—Cambodian party and state leaders have extended warmest greetings to their counterparts on the 15th national day of the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Dec. 2).

Heng Samrin, secretary-general of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea Central Committee and president of the State Council; Chea Sim, chairman of the National Assembly and the Front for Construction and Defence of the Kampuchea Fatherland; and Hun Sen, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the State of Cambodia, sent a joint message to Kaysone Phomvihan, secretary general of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] Central Committee and chairman of the Council of Ministers; Nouhak Phoumsavan, chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly, and Phoumi Vongvichit, acting president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

The message said: "The party, government and people of Cambodia hail the great achievements recorded by the Lao people over the past 15 years under the clear-sighted leadership of the L.P.R.P headed by Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan, in their national construction and defence, regarding them as the common victory of the three Indochinese peoples.

"We highly value the constant growth of the solidarity, friendship and multiform cooperation between Cambodia and Laos. We profoundly thank the Lao party, government and people for their wholehearted support and assistance to the just struggle of the Cambodian people."

The Cambodian leaders wished the Lao leaders the best of health and greater successes in their highly responsible tasks for the Lao people's prosperity and happiness.

Foreign Minister Hor Namhong has also sent his greetings to his Lao counterpart, Phoun Sipaseut, on the same occasion.

Economic Cooperation With Laos Reviewed

BK0512092590 Phnom Penh SPK in French
0420 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Phnom Penh 5 Dec (SPK)—Since the liberation of Cambodia from the genocidal Pol Pot regime in 1979, Laos has provided important assistance and support to restore and develop the economy. Furthermore, the economic cooperation between the two fraternal and neighboring countries has yielded good results, particularly in the fields of agriculture, fishing, and communications.

This year, Laos has helped Cambodia's Stung Treng Province to build the O Kandea bridge on Route 13.

Last year, the Lao side sent to Cambodia 100 tonnes of coffee and 10,000 sheets of plywood while Attopeu and Champassak Provinces provided 13 types of items for everyday use to their sister province of Ratanakiri Province.

Champassak also gave Kratie Province plywood sheets, corrugated zinc sheets, and other material worth 1.5 million riels [Cambodian currency], while Vientiane sent its sister Phnom Penh plywood sheets worth 1.8 million riels.

Furthermore, Laos has provided fuel and other important items. It even accepted six Cambodians for training in pepper planting, mineralogy, and veterinary medicine.

For its part, the State of Cambodia offered its counterpart 2,000 tonnes of husked rice and sent 300 tonnes of rubber crepe and 200 tires through KAMPEXIM (Cambodian export-import company).

Ratanakiri Province alone has provided Champassak and Attopeu with 31 tonnes of sesame, 60 cubic meters of sandalwood, and 700 tonnes of rubber crepe. In the meantime, Kratie has in return sent Champassak cattle hide worth 9 million riels and Phnom Penh has sent dried fish and colored rush mats worth 1.7 million riels to Vientiane.

For the time to come, the two sides have agreed on extending a diversified cooperation, particularly in the fields of transport and communications, production, and trade exchages.

Indonesia

Accord With U.S. on Double Taxation Praised

BK0312040490 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 0000 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Indonesia and the United States have agreed to remove double taxation on personal and corporate income in the form of dividends, interests, and royalties earned in both countries. The agreement on double taxation avoidance was signed in Washington by Indonesian Ambassador to the United States Abdul Rakhman Ramly and Kenneth Quinn, deputy assistant Secretary of State for Asia-Pacific Affairs.

Ambassador Ramli said the agreement had marked a milestone in great relations between the two countries. Meanwhile, Kenneth Quinn said the agreement constituted the U.S. recognition of the Principle of Archipelagic State adopted by Indonesia, adding that such an agreement will boost bilateral economic relations, especially U.S. investment in Indonesia.

Suharto Congratulates Singapore's Goh Chok Tong

BK2911125090 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1003 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] Jakarta, Nov 29 (OANA/ANTARA)—President Suharto has cabled his congratulations to Singapore's new leader, Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong, on the occasion of his appointment, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs here announced Thursday.

In his cable, President Suharto said: I am confident that under your wise leadership the existing cordial relationship and mutually beneficial cooperation between our two countries will be further enhanced in the years to come.

Meanwhile, to former Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew, President Suharto also sent a cable [words indistinct] deputy prime ministers, Ong Teng Cheong and Lee Hsien Loong.

To both, Vice President Sudharmono expressed hope that the friendly relations between the two countries could be strengthened and further enhanced in the years to come.

Lastly, Foreign Minister Alatas also sent a cable to congratulate his Singaporean counterpart, Wong Kan Seng. Alatas said he's confident that the cordial and friendly relations and cooperation among ASEAN member countries would be more solid during Wong's tenure of office.

'Significant' Gas Reserves in South China Sea

BK2311161890 Hong Kong AFP in English 0825 GMT 23 Nov 90

[Text] Jakarta, Nov 23 (AFP)—Continental Oil Company (Conoco) Indonesia Inc. of the United States has found significant gas reserves in Indonesian waters of the South China Sea, the state oil firm Pertamina said here Friday.

Conoco, a subsidiary of Du Pont Co., made the discovery in Natuna Sea Block B, where it operates under a production sharing contract with Pertamina.

Tests on the Buntal-1 well proved a cumulative flow of 63.4 million cubic feet of gas per day, Pertamina said.

Conoco is the main operator in Natuna Sea Block B, holding 40 per cent of a consortium grouping a subsidiary of Texaco Inc., with 25 per cent, and Chevron International Ltd. and Indonesia Petroleum Ltd. of Japan with 17.5 per cent each.

Minister Discusses Parties' Right To Campaign

BK0412095190 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0906 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Jakarta, Dec 4 (OANA/ANTARA)—Information Minister Harmoko and Home Affairs Minister Rudini have agreed that political parties might put advertisement in newspapers as long as they do not violate the advertising code of ethics and other existing regulations.

Not only to advertise, the political parties sometime also hold press conferences to introduce their programs and activities to the general public. So far there is no restriction for them to do such a thing as long as they abide by the existing regulations, he [Harmoko] told newsmen after addressing a panel discussion at the Tarumanegara University here on Tuesday.

The problem is, he said, the recent advertisement of the Indonesian Democratic Party (PDI) in several Jakarta newspapers inviting intellectuals to join the party also put the symbol of the party (head of buffalo).

The putting of the party's symbol in the ads is now still under investigation by a team of the Ministry of Home Affairs. If the symbol is intended as a symbol for the next general elections, so the PDI has violated the existing rules on election campaigns. Now is not a right time for campaigning, Harmoko insisted.

Finance Minister on Success Against Inflation

BK0112072790 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 0600 GMT 1 Dec 90

[Text] The inflation rate in November was decreased to 0.33 percent. Thus, Indonesia's inflation was recorded at 9.47 percent from January to November in 1990. Speaking to newsmen after meeting President Suharto at Bina Graha [presidential office] in Jakarta at noon, Finance Minister Sumarlin said that the success in bringing down the inflation rate to 0.33 percent in November was partly attributed to tightening credits and participation from the business circles as well as a decline in people's expenditures. Minister Sumarlin hoped that this situation could be maintained to enable us to check the inflation rate by the end of December or even by the end of the coming fiscal year.

Laos

'News Release' on Summit of Indochinese Leaders

BK0412151390 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 4 Dec 90

["News release" on the activities of the high-level party-state delegations of the State of Cambodia and the SRV, which are in Laos to attend the celebration of the 15th anniversary of the Lao People's Democratic Republic—dated 4 December]

[Text] At the invitation of the party and state of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], a high-level party-state delegation of the State of Cambodia led by Comrade Heng Samrin, general secretary of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee [KPRP CC], chairman of the State Council of the State of Cambodia, and a high-level party-state delegation of the SRV led by Comrade Vo Chi Cong, member of the CPV Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of the State Council of the SRV, are here to participate in the celebration of the 15th anniversary of the LPDR and to pay friendship visits to the LPDR.

The high-level party-state delegation of the State of Cambodia and the high-level party-state delegation of the SRV laid wreaths at the monument to combatants who sacrificed their lives for the country and people, and attended a grand mass rally and parade held in Vientiane on the occasion of the celebration of LPDR National Day. They visited some historical sites, cultural activities, and economic foundations in Vientiane and other localities.

On behalf of the party and state of the SRV, Chairman Vo Chi Cong conferred the Ho Chi Minh Medal—the highest order of Vietnam—on Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan, general secretary of the LPRP CC and chairman of the LPDR Council of Ministers, on the occasion of the latter's 70th birthday and for his great contributions to the cause of consolidating and developing the friendship ties, special solidarity, and comprehensive cooperation between Laos and Vietnam.

Comrade Heng Samrin, general secretary of the KPRP CC and chairman of the State Council of the State of Cambodia, on behalf of the Kampuchean party and state, conferred the 7 January medals on the following party and state leaders of the LPDR:

1. Comrade Khamtai Siphandon, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the LPRP CC, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, and national defense minister;
2. Comrade Phoun Sipaseut, member of the LPRP CC Political Bureau, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, and foreign affairs minister;
3. Comrade Sisomphon Lovansai, member of the LPRP CC Political Bureau;
4. Comrade Sisavat Keobounphan, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the LPRP CC, and secretary of the party committee and chairman of the administrative committee of Vientiane Municipality;
5. Comrade Sali Vongkhamsao, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the LPRP CC, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, and minister of economy, planning, and finance;
6. Comrade Maichantan Sengmani, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the LPRP CC, and head of the LPRP CC Party-State Inspection and Control Board;
7. Comrade Saman Vi-gnaket, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the LPRP CC, and minister of education and sports;
8. Comrade Oudom Khatthi-gna, alternate member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the LPRP CC, and head of the LPRP CC Organizational Board;
9. Comrade Choummali Sai-gnason, alternate member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the LPRP CC, and first deputy minister of national defense.

At the same time, Comrade Heng Samrin also conferred other medals on a number of other Lao cadres. All these comrades have contributed to increasing, developing, and strengthening the ties of fraternal friendship bertween the Lao and Cambodian peoples.

The high-level party-state delegation of the LPDR led by Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan, the high-level party-state delegation of the State of Cambodia led by Comrade Heng Samrin, and the high-level party-state delegation of the SRV led by Comrade Vo Chi Cong held talks on 2 December 1990. The talks were conducted under an atmosphere of profound friendship and close solidarity between the three parties, countries, and fraternal peoples.

At the talks, the delegations informed one another of the situation in their respective countries and exchanged views on relations between the three countries and on international and regional issues of mutual interest. They reached complete unanimity on all the issues raised. The three sides expressed joy and happiness on the great and important achievements scored in the restructuring in the LPDR and the SRV and the tasks of revival and development in the State of Cambodia. The three sides pledged to do their utmost to consolidate and strengthen the close solidarity and friendship and all-round cooperation between Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam in the interest of the three peoples and for peace, stability, and cooperation in Southeast Asia.

The LPDR and the SRV highly assessed the correct stand and good intentions of and efforts made by the State of Cambodia, aimed at achieving a political settlement of the Cambodian problem in a reasonable, just, and comprehensive manner, which conforms to the reality in Cambodia; and on the basis of national unity, respect for the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of Cambodia, respect for the right of self-determnination of the Cambodian people; and in conformity with the UN Charter so as to build Cambodia into a country of peace, independence, neutrality, and nonalignment, free from external interference and the threat of genocide.

On behalf of the Lao party, government, and people, Comrade General Secretary Kaysone Phomvihan expressed sincere thanks to the KPRP and the State of Cambodia and to the CPV and the SRV for sending their high-level delegations to attend the celebration of the 15th anniversary of the National Day of Laos and to pay friendship visits to the LPDR. He wished the fraternal Cambodian and Vietnamese peoples greater achievements in fulfilling their lofty tasks.

Comrade Chairman Heng Samrin and Comrade Chairman Vo Chi Cong wholeheartedly wished the fraternal Lao people new greater victories in carrying out the cause of restructuring and national development.

The friendship visits to the LPDR by the high-level party-state delegation of the State of Cambodia and the high-level party-state delegation of the SRV on the occasion of the celebration of the 15th anniversary of the LPDR founding as well as the talks of the three delegations were crowned with brilliant success, thus contributing to consolidating and strengthening the close solidarity and friendship and all-round cooperation between the three countries—Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam.

The high-level delegation of the Cambodian party and state and the high-level delegation of the SRV party and state expressed wholehearted and sincere thanks for the warm welcome filled with the spirit of fraternity and comradeship accorded them by the Lao party, state, and people.

[Dated] Vientiane, 4 December 1990.

Further on National Activities, Meetings

Leaders Lay Wreaths

BK0112130890 Vientiane KPL in English 1025 GMT 1 Dec 90

[Text] Vientiane, December 1 (KPL)— In connection with the 15th founding anniversary of the country, general secretary of the Lao PRP CC [People's Revolutionary Party Central Commitee] and chairman of the Council of Ministers Kaysone Phomvihan, Phoumi Vongvichit, Politburo member of the party, acting presient of the Lao PDR[People's Democratic Republic], party secretaries, vice chairmen of the CM [Council of Ministers], members of the People's Supreme Assembly, and other senior officials today morning laid wreaths at the unknown soldiers' monument to pay tribute to combatants who sacrificed their lives for the national cause.

Also laying the wreaths at the momument after the leaders were representatives of the state institutions and of mass organisations.

In the afternoon, the party and state leaders visited different major hospitals in the capital.

During their visits to the places, the leaders talked to patients and congratulated medical staff for their diligence.

Leaders Attend Banquet

BK0312105990 Vientiane KPL in English 0908 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Vientiane, Dec 3 (KPL)—A banquet was held here on December 2 evening to mark the 15th national day of the Lao PDR.

Attending the banquet were Kaysone Phomvihan, general secretary of the Lao PRP CC, chairman of the Council of Ministers; Souphanouvong, Politburo [member] of the Lao PRP CC, president of the Lao PDR; other Politburo members; secretaries and members of the Lao PRP CC; ministers; members of the People's Supreme Assembly; revolutionary veterans; and representatives of all provinces throughout the country.

Also present at the banquet as guests of honour were the high-level party and state delegation of the state of Cambodia and the high-level party and state delegation of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, members of the diplomatic corps and the international organisations in Laos. At the banquet, Acting President Phoumi Vongvichit pointed to the successful celebration of the 15th national day thanks to the active participation and contribution by the entire public services and the community in the capital. He expressed thanks to the guest delegations of Vietnam and Cambodia and other attending foreign guests for their participation in the event.

Souphanouvong Receives Vo Chi Cong

BK0112132090 Vientiane KPL in English 1034 GMT 1 Dec 90

[Text] Vientiane, December 1 (KPL) - Souphanouvong, Politburo member of the Lao PRP CC, president of the Lao PDR today morning received at his residence a high party and state delegation of Vietnam led by Vo Chi Cong, Politburo member of the Vietnamese Communist Party Central Committee, president of the Vietnamese State Council.

The two leaders were very pleased to have met each other at the time, which was considered as an important contribution to the strengthening relations of friendship, special solidarity between Laos and Vietnam.

President Souphanouvong on the occasion also appreciated the current visit to Laos by the delegation to attend the celebration of the 15th national day of the Lao PDR.

He wished the Vietnamese guests a successful visit. Vo Chi Cong also wished the president good health and long life.

Kaysone Receives Vo Chi Cong

BK0212092290 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 1 Dec 90

[Text] In Vientiane on 1 December, the Vietnamese party and state delegation led by comrade Vo Chi Cong, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of the Council of State paid a courtesy call on Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan, general secretary of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] and chairman of the Lao People's Democratic Republic Council of Ministers.

In an atmosphere of fraternity and comradeship, Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan warmly welcomed and highly appraised the Vietnamese delegation's friendly visit to Laos to attend the 15th National Day of the LPDR. He said: This visit will mark a new development in the special relations of friendship and cooperation between the two parties, states, and peoples.

Chairman Vo Chi Cong expressed his pleasure in seeing great, comprehensive achievements scored by the Lao people in various domains as well as the intitial results achieved in restructuring.

On the afternoon of the same day, Chairman Vo Chi Cong and his entourage paid a floral visit to the monument of the fallen soldiers in Vientiane. The wreath of the Vietnamese delegation bears an inscription reading: Gratitude to the heroic and fallen soldiers of Laos who sacrificed for the independence and freedom of the Lao fatherland.

Cambodia's Heng Samrin Received

BK0312114490 Vientiane KPL in English 0920 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Vientiane, Dec 3 (KPL)—Heng Samrin, general scretary of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea Central Committee, president of the State Council of the State of Cambodia, on December 1 visited here Souphanouvong, Politburo member of the Lao PRP CC, president of the Lao PDR.

President Heng Samrin on the occasion conveyed to President Souphanouvong affection and best wishes of the party, state and people of Cambodia and praised the great comprehensive achievements the Lao people have scored over the past 15 years.

President Souphanouvong welcomed President Heng Samrin and his delegation's participation in the celebration of the 15th National Day of the Lao PDR. He wished the delegation a successful visit to Laos.

'Best Wishes' Received

BK0112115790 Vientiane KPL in English 1014 GMT 1 Dec 90

[Text] Vientiane, December 1 (KPL)—The diplomatic corps and representatives of the international organisations in Laos yesterday presented best wishes to the acting president of the republic Mr. Phoumi Vongvichit and top Lao leaders on the occasion of the 15th National Day (December 2).

In his wishing speech, Mr. Nguyen Xuan, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to Laos, the dean of the diplomatic corps, pointed to the significance of the formation of the Lao People's Democratic Republic. The event, he said, has opened up to the Lao ethnic people a new era of independence and freedom so that the people can exercise the right as masters of the nation.

The dean also highly valued the achievements in different areas which the Lao people have gained in the past 15 years in the cause of the national defence and construction, thus improving the people's material and spiritual life and raising the Lao PDR's role and prestige in the international arena.

He also conveyed new year's best wishes to the Lao Government and people in the promotion of the people's democracy, in building Laos to become a country of peace, independence, unity, and prosperity, to contribute to the cause of peace, friendship, and cooperation in Southeast Asia and the world over.

In thanking the guests, the acting president Phoumi Vongvichit informed the well-wishers of the gains in all fields achieved over the past 15 years and described them as firm foundation for the future development of the Laos. Internationally, the acting president noted that the Lao PDR was active in establishing friendship ties, mutual understanding, and cooperation, and good neighbourliness with every nation in the interest of peace, friendship, mutual trust, and equal footing and mutually beneficial cooperation.

He further said that the gains which the Lao people had achieved was inseparable from the valuable and constant support, assistance, and cooperation of every people and government, and organisations represented at the function by the ambassadors and representatives.

The Lao acting president also wished members of the diplomatic corps and representatives of the international organisations in Laos good health, happiness, and success in their missions.

Camodian Greetings Received

BK0412094890 Vientiane KPL in English 0851 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Vientiane, December 4 (KPL)—On the occasion of the 15th founding anniversary of the Lao PDR, Kaysone Phomvihan, general secretary of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee, chairman of the Council of Ministers; Nouhak Phoumsavan, president of the People's Supreme Assembly; and Phoumi Vongvichit, acting-president of the Lao PDR, received a joint message of greetings from the leadership of the party and the state of Cambodia.

The Cambodian leadership acclaimed in its message successive achievements of the Lao PDR in national defence and development over the past 15 years and considered them as a common victory of the three peoples of Indochina.

It also expressed satisfaction with the steady growth of the ties of friendship, special solidarity and allround cooperation between the two countries and expressed gratitude to the Lao party, government and people for their spiritual and material support for the just cause of the Cambodian revolution.

On the same occasion, Lao Foreign Minister Phoun Sipaseut also received a message of the same nature from his Cambodian counterpart Hor Namhong.

DPRK Leaders Send Greetings

BK0512054890 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0000 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] On the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the 2 December National Day, Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan, general secretary of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee and chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, and Comrade Phoumi Vongvichit, acting president of the LPDR, have received a message of warm greetings from Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] Central Committee and president of the DPRK. The message reads as follow:

On the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the establishment of the LPDR, on behalf of the WPK Central Committee, the Government of the DPRK, the Korean people, and in my own name, I would like to convey warm greetings and fraternal salutations to you, comrades, and through you, to the LPRP Central Committee, the Government of the LPDR, and the Lao people.

Throughout the past 15 years or since the establishment of the LPDR—the establishment of the republic which marked the opening of a new era in the life of the Lao people—the Lao people, under the leadership of the LPRP with Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan as head, have successfully achieved great steps in fulfilling tasks aimed at building Laos into a new, independent, and democratic country. At present, the Lao people have positively struggled to consolidate and perfect the popular democratic system and to boost socioeconomic development.

The Korean people are very pleased to see that the Lao people have won many great achievements in building the new society. On this occasion, I would like to wholeheartedly wish you, comrades, and the Lao people new, still greater achievements in performing tasks in making preparations to welcome the Fifth LPRP Congress.

I am convinced that the traditional relations of friendship and cooperation between the parties, states, and peoples of our two countries will be further developed and strengthened.

On the same occasion, Comrade Phoun Sipaseut, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and minister of foreign affairs of the LPDR, also received a message of warm greetings from Comrade Kim Yong-nam, vice premier and minister of foreign affairs of the DPRK.

PASASON Marks National Day

BK0512101990 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0500 GMT 2 Dec 90

[1 December PASASON editorial: "Fifteen Years of Trials; 15 Years of Victories"]

[Text] Today, the multiethnic Lao people across the country are proudly and joyously celebrating together their historical day of victory, 2 December—the 15th anniversary of the establishment of the Lao People's Democratic Republic —which is considered a grand festival day of the nation, a mark of complete victory in the cause of national liberation revolution, and a symbol of the collapse of feudalism and colonialism in Laos. This victory has opened a new era for the Lao nation—an era of the consolidation, building, perfection, and expansion of the popular democratic system. The establishment of the LPDR was not a coincidence, but the result of 30 full years of tremendously difficult struggle, full of great sacrifices by our Army and people. It was considered a victory of the nation's patriotic tradition and the spirit of solidarity. Refusing to be anybody's slaves, the people, inspired by the revolutionary current of the era, determinedly struggled to regain their national independence and freedom.

The past 15 years were part of the period in the history of the Lao nation, the period which was filled with serious and furious trials and the period in which the country was encircled by outsiders and was viciously attacked by hostile powers from different directions. The bad consequences of the protracted war, together with very low economic, cultural, and social conditions which have existed in our country for centuries, have caused the present struggle to defend and build the country to become much more difficult and more furious than the past struggle of liberation. But, completely adhering to the revolutionary spirit and with the Lao People's Revolutionary Party —their vanguard—as leader, the multiethnic Lao people have persistently fought and overcome all difficulties and obstacles which were caused by the enemies or were due to natural disasters, the aftermath of the war, and the existing backwardness of the society, thereby accomplishing many achievements in defending and building the country.

Over the past 15 years, the young LPDR—target of the enemies—has not been (?destroyed). Yet, it has grown up and been strengthened in all fields. The people's administration at all levels and the multiethnic people's rights to be masters of their own country have been enhanced. The people have joined with the national defense and public security armed forces in crushing all efforts of the enemies who have aimed to overthrow the new regime, thereby securely maintaining the political tranquillity and social order. The revolutionary modification, which was adopted by the fourth party congress and which has been carried out for three to four years, has also achieved good initial results. The economic, educational, and public health reforms, the promotion and expansion of the people's rights to being owners of the country, and the enhancement of the efficiency of the political system, which have been systematically carried out, have also brought significant progress in many aspects to us. The outcome of the economic reform has, first of all, freed our country from the natural economy and then switched to the goods-oriented economy, done away with the bartering practice, and implemented goods-money relations. Production has also become more brisk; the circulation of goods has been broadened; the local markets have emerged; the currency has stabilized; new social relations have been more in evidence; the people's living conditions in all respects have been improved; and the country has explicitly enjoyed being shaped by new development.

The great and firm achievements in all fields won in the past 15 years have further strengthened the position of the LPDR. They have created favorable, basic conditions for the nation to march forward along the path of effecting new changes. Our achievements in the past 15 years have resulted from the correct guidance and talented leadership of the party and from the persistent efforts of our entire Lao party, Army, and people who have together resolutely fought and overcome various obstacles to defend and build the country. They have resulted from the special relations and all-round cooperation between Laos and Vietnam and between Laos and Cambodia as well as the cooperation and friendship between Laos and the Soviet Union and between Laos and the PRC. Those achievements have also resulted from the sympathy, support, and assistance of various friendly countries, near and far, as well as of various international organizations [words indistinct]. The multiethnic Lao people have regarded as precious and valuable the support and assistance given to the LPDR by the fraternal and friendly countries and by various international organizations, and they will never forget this support.

We are joyously commemorating the 15th anniversary of the LPDR with pride and elation over our achievements. However, we have never forgotten that along the way forward, there remain many difficulties. Various hostile powers have not yet abandoned their schemes to sabotage our new system. Though our national economy has been developed in many respects, it still remains backward in many fields. Certainly the crisis situation in fraternal countries will affect to a certain degree the modification cause in our country. In view of these facts, it is urgently required that our entire Lao people enhance their spirit of self-reliance and self-sufficiency, coordinate with epochal strength, and be determined to vigorously and thoroughly follow the principles of practicing thrift, pay attention to public security, and continue to build and develop the economy and culture.

To gain the strength to successfully fulfill the said tasks, let our entire people consolidate and enhance the solidarity and harmony; highly promote and expand the national traditions and the people's rights to being owners of the country; continue to pursue the revolutiuonary direction; adhere to the all-round modification line; build the infrastructures in all respects; strengthen the friendship relations, special solidarity, and all-round cooperation with Vietnam and Cambodia; maintain the friendship relations and all-round cooperation with the Soviet Union, the PRC, and other fraternal countries; broaden cooperation with foreign countries; and create favorable conditions for the cause of effecting new changes and national development.

In light of the complicated situation of today, we have come to understand ever more clearly various difficulties that we must overcome and favorable points that we must promote and expand. Our party has already set forth the correct path of advancement. The people should then unite as one around the party and the popular democratic administration and do their utmost to defend and build the country with a view to freeing our country from poverty and underdevelopment and then turning it into a developed country so that all people can enjoy a happy and plentiful life and civilization. Let all of us march forward, march forward, and march forward.

Receptions in Beijing, Bangkok

BK0312143190 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] According to reports sent by Lao missions overseas, on the evening of 30 November, Phongsavat Boupha and Bounkeut Sangsomsak, respective ambassadors extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] to the PRC and the Kingdom of Thailand, hosted receptions to celebrate the 15th founding anniversary of the LPDR.

At those receptions, the two Lao ambassadors gave speeches informing guests of the significance of the 2 December event when the multiethnic Lao people successfully removed the yoke of domination of colonialism and outdated feudalism and achieved complete victory in the national liberation struggle, opening a new era of independence, freedom, and national construction.

Attending the reception at the Lao Embassy in Beijing were Wang Bingqian, adviser to the state and PRC minister of finance; (Lu Shusin), director of the Foreign Affairs Office of the PRC Government; Qi Huaiyuan, vice minister of foreign affairs; several important figures from the PRC Government circles; diplomats from some foreign missions in the PRC; and 300 other guests.

In Bangkok, the Lao Embassy hosted the reception at the Imperial Hotel. Attending the reception as honorable guests were General Athit Kamlang-ek, deputy prime minister of the Kingdom of Thailand; Subin Pinkhayan, foreign minister; several important figures from Thai Government circles; foreign diplomats and representatives of many international organizations; and more than 400 other guests.

Sali Vongkhamsao Receives SRV Trade Delegates

BK0512114490 Vientiane KPL in English 0858 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Vientiane, Dec 5 (KPL)—Sali Vongkhamsao, minister of economy, planning, and finance, on December 3 received here a visiting delegation of the Vietnamese Trade [Ministry] led by its minister, Houang Minh Thang.

The two ministers discussed the promotion of bilateral trade and economic cooperation, focussing on the introduction of new economic management mechanism, the production and efficiency and the cooperation with foreign countries designed to increase the export.

In addition, Sali Vongkhamsao informed the guest delegation of the Lao effort to promote production to boost trade within the country.

Trade Agreement Signed With SRV Delegation

BK0512113090 Vientiane KPL in English 0900 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Vientiane, Dec 5 (KPL)—Khamphoui Keoboualapha, Lao minister of trade and tourism, and Houang Minh Thang, Vietnamese minister of trade, on December 4, signed here a note on their working meeting in Vientiane and an agreement on a series of basic principles concerning trade management, goods exchange, and trade service operation between Laos and Vietnam.

The sides, on November 29, discussed here the bilateral trade relations over the years, with a focuss on goods exchange, trade service and preparation for a protocol on trade cooperation for 1991 and for 1991-1995 to be signed in early 1991 in Hanoi.

The sides were of the view that the bilateral trade volume has increased, but the illegal trade phenomenon is still prevalent, notably in private business sector. Therefore, it requires that a number of basic principles should be defined to ensure the smooth and effective development of the bilateral trade activities.

The bilateral trade figure this year is balanced, reaching 900,000 rubles or over 270 million kip. Lao goods exported to Vietnam include coffee, cardamom, and forest products, whereas those exported to Laos are sugar, milk, cotton, thread and a variety of commodities.

It was noted that bilateral trade volume not specified in the protocol has increased many fold.

PASASON Issues First Sunday Edition

BK0112031190 Bangkok THE NATION in English 1 Dec 90 p A5

[By Kawi Chongkhittawon]

[Text] Vientiane—After 40 years, the mouth-piece of the Lao Communisty Party, Pasason, has decided to go tabloid with its first ever Sunday edition.

"Laotians are not used to reading newspapers on Sundays," said Bouaban Nolakoun, editor-in-chief of Pasason Daily, "but now they will."

Pasason printed a test run of its first Sunday edition last weekend, making it the first Lao newspaper to publish on such a day.

The edition is aimed at general readers who want to read something different from the usual mundane "political" articles, the editor-in-chief said.

It contains more non-political stories with lots of pictures as well as a variety of columns related to entertainment, sports, cultural activities and advice on beauty. Short stories and poems are also included.

Advice on beauty is one of the most popular columns of the new edition, according to Buabane.

Pasason, which has served as the organ of the Lao Communist Party, has in recent years suffered from readerships loss. At present, it has a circulation of 7,000 down from over 10,000 a few years ago.

The main reason was the price increase from a mere 3 kips to 20 kips per copy a year ago due to the increased cost of production and costly newsprint

Some Laotian journalists see the Sunday paper as a new effort to attract younger readers, who do not read much. All news media in Laos is controlled by the government. Thai reading materials are not on sale on newsstands.

At least 20 publications are competing for readers in this landlocked country with a 3.7 million population and a literacy rate of 60 per cent.

Pasason and Vientiane Mai are the only two dailies that have sizable readership. Pasason is considered a national daily because of its countrywide circulation. Vientiane Mai's distribution is still limited to the capital, but it is treated as a less serious paper with broader appeal.

Pasason's deputy editor, Vanthalom Akkhalat, said the Sunday edition would soon become a model for the so-called "mass paper" in Laos, which will be read by the majority of the people with their feedbacks.

Vanthalom said one of the Sunday paper's unique features is the publication of articles and opinions expressed by ordinary citizens and free-lance journalists.

"In the past, only Pasason reporters were allowed to write," he said adding that now outside writers are also welcomed.

The first edition of Pasason, under the name of Issara, was published on August 13, 1950 when the Lao guerrilla led by the current leaderhip began its first propaganda effort from its liberated zone in Sam Nua to win the war against the rightist government in Vientiane backed by the United States, which they overthrew on Dec 2, 1975.

A diplomat said the Sunday edition will come to symbolize the openness in Laos with the country celebrating its 15th anniversary with much fanfare.

Since 1985, Laos has adopted a market-oriented economy to improve its backward economy. Under the economic reform effort, it has brought in foreign experts to map out their economic development programmes. The third five-year plan for 1991-95 will mark an era of new economic management in Laos.

"Laos has been rather successful in syncronizing its economy with western methods," the diplomat said.

For the future, Bouaban said the government is looking into the possibility of enacting a press law to guarantee press freedom and clearly define its responsibilities to the country and its readers. Other socialist countries led by the Soviet Union have now established new press laws that will guarantee press freedom.

Asked whether the government would allow privately owned newspaper readerships in the country, Bouaban said: "It is not feasible to invest in newspapers because Laos has a low literacy rate."

Philippines

Bases Panel Spokesman Airs Government Stand

HK0512130690 Quezon City Radyo Ng Bayan in Tagalog 1025 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Interview with Philippine bases panel spokesman Undersecretary Rafael S. Alunan by Arlene Andes—live; in English, italicized portions in Tagalog]

[Text] [Andes] *Good evening to all our listeners. As we mentioned earlier, prior to this we heard the official Philippines statement in relation to the first session of the third round of Philippine-U.S. bases talks and there are a lot of questions which we wish to have answered through the Philippines' spokesman in the person of Undersecretary Rafael Alunan III. Good evening, undersecretary.*

[Alunan] Good evening, Arlene, and good evening to all those listening to Radyo Ng Bayan [Radio of the Nation].

[Andes] Yes sir. *We have heard that the Philippine position has several reports* on the phase-out, phase-in, phasedown or orderly withdrawal. What exactly is the Philippine Government position in simple and clear terminology?

[Alunan] Well, the Philippines is working towards a phase-out of all U.S. military facilities. If there is going to be an agreement with the U.S. it will be in the form of a treaty of withdrawal, not renewal. Now, the Philippine panel is seeking an orderly and beneficial phase-out. What this means is that there will be different time frames for the phase-out of each facility and the duration for each will be determined by what we think will best serve these orderly and beneficial goals.

For example, in the case of Subic, the panel is proposing a phase-out period of five to seven years. Now, in this phase-out period, we intend to introduce qualitative changes in the operations of the remaining facilities to enable the Philippines to progressively assume command of the operations of the facilities. Features of these qualitative changes for example are: during the phase-out period we will see a transfer of functions and technology and in-depth training of Philippine personnel. Also, we intend to remove the unhampered use clause in our arrangements with the United States. Thirdly, and I think this is very important, is that the facilities will be Filipinized, civilianized, and commercialized as soon as possible. Our view of the facilities is that they are national assets that need to be used for national development and when we say national development, this includes political, economic, and security goals. Our political goal is to attain political maturity. Our economic goal is to attain economic self-reliance. Our security goal intends to reach a level of military self-reliance, a matter which presently we do not have. Now, very crucial to our plans is the conversion of these bases so that they can contribute to and achieve these national goals. I think it has already been pointed out in the past that in the case of Clark, our centerpiece program here is to convert that into a civil aviation complex. In the case of Subic, the core program would be to convert that into a maritime complex.

[Andes] *Sir you mentioned timeframe, what is our time frame for this phase-out which the government is seeking?*

[Alunan] As we said before, Arlene, in the case of Clark and the smaller facilities, we are looking at 16 September 1991. While in the case of Subic, we're looking at a five to seven year time frame.

[Andes] Therefore sir, what are the considerations which went into the crafting of the Philippine position?

[Alunan] Well, the considerations are such that in the case of, for example John Haye, *we can easily take-over* because that's just a rest and recreation area and the main intention really is for a portion of that to be operated and maintained by the Department of Tourism. Another portion, in fact the largest portion will be under the control and maintenance of the Department of Natural Resources and a small portion there is being studied for the use of the Philippine military authorities for their advanced education program. *There is supposed to be a plan to transfer the National Defense College there.*

[Andes] I see. *So that is one of the possibilities if these phase-out periods are pushed through.* Is that so?

[Alunan] Well, that is what we intend to do by 17 September 1991. That is what we intend to do there.

[Andes] *Well, what exactly do you mean when you say Filipinizing, civilianizing, and commercializing the facilities? What are you trying to imply?*

[Alunan] During the phase-out period, as we reduce the level of American troop presence, we will increase the Philippine presence there. And the Philippine presence will be mostly civilian in character and also in the case of the remaining American presence, if we can civilianize that rather than, retain for example, military combat troops so much the better. And finally, in the process of the phase-out period, we intend to commercialize some of the operations there so that we can generate income for the country.

[Andes] Secretary Alunan, what happens after the phase-out period, what does the government envision to be the end result?

[Alunan] The end result is the full conversion of the facilities that will generate the necessary incomes to meet the economic development goals of the country. By that time, we would like to see ourselves as militarily self-reliant and at the same time, politically mature. By that time also, we would like to see thriving industries in those areas that revolve around the maritime industrial complex and the civil aviation complex. To be more specific, the civil aviation complex considers a new international passenger terminal in Clark including air cargo terminals for international transshipment operations and possibly repairs and maintenance services. In Subic, what is being envisioned, through the directional plans that were provided by the LEDC [expansion unkown] would be to convert the Subic facilities to ship repair and maintenance facilities and probably in the future, if the conditions warrant, to also engage in shipbuilding activities.

[Andes] Undersecretary Alunan, when we say no U.S. combat troops or facilities, do you mean a total absence and the U.S. will no longer be allowed access or presence to our facilities?

[Alunan] Yes, I'll give you an example, in the case of Clark, for example, they have already agreed that they will be pulling out the fighter squadron and that is the fighter squadrons that provide the core of the combat presence in Clark. What is happenning is that they are now trying to work out an arrangement where they can maintain, under a new arrangement, the military airlift command aircraft which are basically noncombat in nature. These are just simple transport operations.

[Andes] *So what can we expect next?*

[Alunan] Well, there will also be a finite life to the presence of these units because at the end of the so-called period, whatever arrangement that is, that may emerge from these talks is that, at the end of that period, they will no longer be there.

[Andes] Okay, unless you have any questions, Tito Vic and Tito Ed [Andes talking to radio anchorpersons] from your end.

[Vic or Ed] It's all right Arlene, go ahead.

[Andes] *So this is where we temporarily end our interview with Undersecretary Alunan. Tomorrow, sir, what are your possible discussion topics* for the second session of the third round of talks?

[Alunan] What we would most probably discuss tomorrow would be how the technical panels today bridge the gap that separate them. We will take it from there.

[Andes] *But does it not seem like the two sides are not reaching an understanding?*

[Alunan] That's right, there was the deadlock that we talked about yesterday was officially reported to the negotiating panels this morning and that at the end of the plenary session of the negotiating panels, our principals instructed the sub-committees, the technical sub-comittees to continue discussions and find ways and means to bridge the gap.

[Andes] Okay, thank you very much, Undersecretary Rafael Alunan.

Spokesman Says Technical Bases Talks Bog Down

HK0512041590 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 5 Dec 90 pp 1, 8

[By Lito Zulueta and Marie Rose Feliciano, staffmembers]

[Excerpts] Technical talks on a new bases treaty were snagged yesterday over the United States'insistence that it be allowed unlimited access to its military facilities here when their lease ends next year, according to the Philippine panel spokesman.

The stalemate casts a pall on the resumption today of official talks between the Philippine panel headed by Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus and the American panel headed by special negotiator Richard Armitage.

Tourism Undersecretary Rafael Alunan, the government spokesman, said that the technical talks had encountered an "impasse" which would be up to the Manglapus and Armitage panels to resolve.

"If it looks like there is a great possibility that the talks might get stalled, I just hope that the statesmanship of

Mr. Armitage and, of course, the Philippine side will overcome these problems," he said.

But U.S. spokesman Stanley Schrager preferred to call the problems "disagreements." He told reporters: "I don't want to call it an impasse. I think these technical committees are not negotiating bodies. You can't have an impasse on negotiations when you're not negotiating. Impasse will be left to the negotiators if and when they come about."

Alunan said the collapse was due to a disagreement over what "installations" in Clark the Americans would have access to.

He said Defense Undersecretary Felicianso Gacis, chairman of the Philippine panel in the technical talks, had proposed that American commercial access to Clark be limited to "standing structures." The Philippines, on the other hand, wants control of the thoroughfares, runways and air traffic control.

"I understand that there has been very stiff resistance from the U.S." said Alunan. The spokesman added that the U.S. had insisted that they be allowed jurisdiction over tariff collection, income taxes, duties, licenses and registration in Clark. [passage omitted]

As this developed, the bases conversion plan has been stalled by funding problems, said Jose Abueva, chairman of the bases conversion body.

The P [Philippine Peso] 158.5-billion plan for Clark Air Base, Subic Naval Base and four other minor facilities can be implemented now, he said, if only the money is available.

Meanwhile, Rep. Hortensia Starke (Negros Occidental) urged the Philippine panel to immediately agree to the U.S. proposal for a seven- to 10-year "phasedown" period of its military facilities.

Starke, identified with the landowner bloc in the House, in a privilege speech urged the government to agree to the U.S. position in exchange for a substantial reduction of the country's foreign debt.

Government Not To Stop Workers' Mideast Travel

HK0512040190 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 5 Dec 90 pp 1, 10

[Excerpts] Malacanang will not stop Philippine workers from going to the Middle East, but it is keeping a close watch on developments there that might endanger the lives of Filipinos, President Aquino said yesterday.

"Our own judgment on this matter still tilts against suspension of movement to the Gulf areas, outside of Kuwait and Iraq themselves, as of now," Ms Aquino told newsmen in Malacanang. She was reacting to the proposal of Sen Ernesto Herrera to stop the export of Philippine workers and recall those already there because of heightened threats of war.

Labor Secretary Ruben Torres said the government will only suspend the deployment of workers in Middle East if the situation warrants.

"A suspension (in the deployment of workers) might be unduly alarmist," Torres said.

He said that it would be impractical to stop sending workers at this point since war might not even erupt between the United States-led multinational force and Iraq. But in case of war, the Philippine embassy and Philippine communities in Eastern provinces of Saudi Arabia already have contingency plans that would be immediately implemented. [passage omitted]

In the event of war, Torres said, women, children and other dependents of Philippine workers would be the first to be moved out to Riyadh. The Saudi capital is 800 kilometers away from Kuwait and the Iraqi border where fighting is expected to be confined.

There are some 90,000 Filipinos in the eastern provinces of Saudi Arabia, Torres said. And the Saudi government and private employers have pledged to help implement the contingency plan.

Malacanang had earlier ordered the evacuation of all Philippine workers in Kuwait and Iraq. But it refused to recall workers stationed in Saudi Arabia and other Middle East countries in line with its policy of keeping their goodwill.

An estimated 90,000 Filipinos were working in Kuwait and Iraq before the invasion. Nearly 30,000 have since returned to the Philippines, leaving less than 3,500 in Kuwait. All together, more than 500,000 Filipinos are believed to be working in the Middle East, mostly in Saudi Arabia.

Aquino Denies Bowing to IMF Demands

HK0412042590 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 4 Dec 90 p 9

[By Gerry Lirio]

[Text] President Aquino yeserday denied that the government has bowed to the demands of the International Monetary Fund to implement a five-point economic program seeking to raise the prices of petroleum products and other commodities in exchange for $700 million in new loans.

"We would like to make it clear to all of our countrymen that we will never allow ourselves to be subservient to the IMF because we are in fact a sovereign nation. In fact, I would never agree to the wishes of any foreign entity," Ms. Aquino said.

She was commenting on criticisms that the government had allowed the IMF to manipulate the economy and impose new taxes on the Philippine people to allow the government to acquire an estimated $700 million from the IMF and other foreign creditors.

Malacanang and Congress agreed Thursday to implement the IMF-prescribed economic program to allow the government to meet the targetted P [Philippine peso] 55 billion public sector deficit for the year.

Among the economic reforms were a new round of increases in the prices of petroleum products and an increase of 5 percent across-the-board levy on oil imports. Both measures are expected to trigger increases in the prices of other basic commodities.

The President also clarified that the program was not imposed by the IMF. Rather, it was a program "envisioned" by her finance and economic advisers to buoy up the economy, she added.

She also clarified that the Executive and Congress officials have not formally agreed to impose new tax measures during the Thursday meeting. What was agreed upon was to pass measures giving incentives to employes of the Bureaus of Customs and International Revenue to improve their collection, she added.

During the meeting, Finance Secretary Jesus Estanislao told newsmen the agreement calls for:

—The abolition of the Oil Stabilization Fund, deregulation of the oil industry and raising of oil prices at "realistic levels."
—Reduction in the appropriations of line agencies by another P5 billion. A P20 billion slash from line appropriations has been agreed upon.
—Enactment of new measures that will give more teeth to the Bir [Bureau of Internal Revenue] and BOC [Bureau of Customs] to improve their tax collection effectiency, including a refinement of the Value Added System and the income tax rates for business establishments.
—Imposition of an additional 5 percent across-the-board levy on crude importation to allow the government to recover revenues lost in the conversion of ad valorem tax to specific tax.
—Granting of a three-month general amnesty to delinquent tax payers to raise revenues by at least P3 billion for agro-industrial development.

Narcotics Command Major Killed in Manila Ambush

HK0512054890 Quezon City Radyo Ng Bayan in Tagalog 0400 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] A soldier was ambushed at about 0900 this morning on the corner of Quirino Avenue and San Andres, Manila. According to a report by Radio Patrol 1, Sonny Casulia, the victim was identified as Major Roland Aguila, based in the Narcotics Command. The ambush took place near Major Aguila's house, inside his car in Diamante Street. Based on the report, the window of Major Aguila's car was open when one of the suspects approached him and asked him a question. The suspect left but after a few minutes he came back with three other suspects. They then fired shots at the soldier. Witnesses said the suspects are youths. Major Aguila sustained 17 gunshot wounds to various parts of his body. The report also said a bystander was hit by a stray bullet. It was learned that one of the suspects was hit in his body and boarded a yellow taxi which fled to an unidentified place. Meanwhile, Major Aguila was declared dead on arrival at the Manila Hospital.

Military Reports Counterinsurgency Operations

HK0512104690 Quezon City Radyo Ng Bayan in Tagalog 0650 GMT 5 Dec 90

[By Josette Olivera from Camp Crame]

[Text] Military counterinsurgency operations in five provinces have resulted in the death of a communist rebel and injury to six others. Based on a report which arrived at the office of PC-INP [Philippine Constabulary-Integrated National Police] chief Major General Cesar Nazareno, in Davao del Sur, a joint patrol of the INP Special Task Action group in Kinuskusan, Bansalan Davao del Sur, lead by Lieutenant Vicente Ladriaga and elements from the Philippine Army and CAFGU [Citizen's Armed Forces Geographical Unit] encountered a group of 50 armed communist terrorists lead by a Commander (Bibit). The encounter resulted in the death of an NPA [New People's Army] rebel identified as Antonio (Biningel). Military authorities confiscated a .30 caliber Garand, bullets, various subversive documents and several other articles.

Meanwhile, in Davao del Norte, an encounter between a group undertaking a combat patrol lead by Jimmy Amadia and 10 NPA rebels under Commander Norman's leadership. The firefight lasted 10 minutes and resulted in the injury and capture of an NPA rebel identified as Ronnie Sandoran, confiscation of a Garand rifle and five clips loaded with ammunition. The remaining rebels ran off in the direction of Kilometer 30 of Barangay Sawata Asuncion, Davao del Norte.

In Surigao del Sur, a team of Surigao Sur PC, lead by Second Lieutenant Nelson (Musan), captured two NPA rebels linked to the burning of the Santos-Paredes residence at barangay Umidos, Surigao del Sur. The captured rebels were identified as Alan and Algerio Lozada. Military authorities also arrested a certain Mansueto Juaton, 40 years old and a resident of Bislig, Surigao del Sur for his involvement in the distribution of NPA rebel propaganda leaflets at barangay Umidos during the Welga ng Bayan [nationwide strike] last 30 November.

In Bohol, a joint team of PC and CAFGU elements lead by Lieutenant Joselito Esquivel arrested an NPA terrorist identified as Hugo Lumantas in barangay Magsaysay-Sevilla. The said communist rebel is currently undergoing tactical interrogation.

In Bulacan, elements of the 171st PC Company conducting a combat patrol in barangay (Patantahan), Malolos arrested two NPA rebels identified as Renato Rivertos alias Andy, organizer of the Katipunan ng mga Makabayang Mangigngisda [Assembly of Nationalistic Fishermen]; and Rodolfo Mercado alias Ding, a militia member. Two .38 caliber revolvers and a Garand rifle were confiscated from the rebels. They were immediately turned over to the [word indistinct] for tactical interrogation.

Court Declares Cordillera Region Autonomy Void

HK0512034390 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 5 Dec 90 pp 1, 8

[By Bert Castro, staffmember]

[Text] The Supreme Court voided yesterday the creation of the Cordillera Autonomous Regions [CAR], saying that CAR with only one small province—Ifugao—as member violated the Constitution as well as is "illogical, absurd and impractical."

"The region cannot be constituted from only one province," the High Court ruled. "Congress (and the Constitution) never intended that a single province may constitute the autonomous region."

But, at the same time, the tribunal declared as still valid "until properly repealed or amended" Executive Order 220 creating the executive board and the Cordillera Regional Assembly, which administered the affairs of the region before the establishment of CAR.

In its decision, the tribunal upheld the stand of the petitioners that there could be no valid CAR in only one province because the Constitution and Republic Act 6766 required that the region be composed of more than one constituent unit.

As such, the court said, Ifugao as a province must join other provinces, cities, municipalities and geographical areas to constitute CAR.

If CAR is implemented as it is now constituted, "it would be faced with the absurd situation of having two sets of officials, a set of provincial officials and another of regional officials exercising their executive and legislative powers over exactly the same small area," the Supreme Court said, referring to Ifugao.

Besides, the tribunal said, it was "illogical" for the government to allocate P10 million for CAR's initial organizational requirements considering that it consisted only of one province.

The decision arose form an urgent petition filed by officials of the Cordillera Regional Assembly and concerned citizens who sought the abolition of CAR. They argued that CAR was overwhelmingly rejected by residents of the areas that were to be included in the autonomous region during a plebiscite last Jan. 30.

The "no" votes, totalling 148,676, came from Bagio City and the provinces of Benguet, Mountain Province, Abra and Kalinga-Apayao. Only Ifugao had opted to join the autonomous region with a total of 5,889 "yes" votes.

Based on the plebiscite results, the Commission on Elections [Comelec] issued a resolution last Feb. 14, declaring the approval and ratification of CAR.

The Comelec action was followed by a memorandum of Justice Secretary Franklin Drilon to Malacanang that since "the province of Ifugao being the only province which voted favorably—then (it) alone, legally and validly, constitutes the CAR."

Congress then also enacted Republic Act 6861 setting the first Monday of March 1991 as the date of the election of the first CAR officials.

Demand for Philippine Workers Overseas 'Strong'

HK0512035990 Manila BUSINESS STAR in English 5 Dec 90 p 2

["Indicator" column: "Demand for Philippine OCWs [Overseas Contract Workers] Up in First Nine Months"]

[Text] Demand for local manpower abroad continues to be strong as indicated by intensified deployment and processing activities at the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA).

The POEA said that although the total number of overseas contract workers (OCWs) who were deployed during the first nine months of the year dropped by 2.23% from 348,681 to 340,909 as a result of a reduction in the land-based worker category, the record of deployed new hires expanded by about one-third or 33% from its previous level last year.

Land-based contract workers, who comprise 76% of aggregate OCW deployment, are categorized into either new hires or rehires. Over the past two years, land-based deployment had been mainly dominated by rehirings, which comprised a 52.5% share. New hires, on the other hand, accounted for the remaining 47.5%.

This year, new hires grew from 120,088 to 159,547 thus making up the bulk of land-based deployment, at 62%. The POEA attributed this increment mainly to increasing demand in nations suffering labor shortages, Asia's tiger economies most especially.

But despite the growth in new hirings, total land-based OCW deployment was reduced by 4.85% from 272,196 to 259,001. This the POEA said, was due to a cutdown in the number of rehires by a heavier rate of 34.6% from 152,108 to 99,454 this year.

The seabased sector, on the other hand, continues to experience growth in the deployment level, as in the first nine months this year when it posted a 7.1% growth from 76,326 to 81,730. The movement is consistent with the trend in the past three years when deployment of sea-based personnel grew by an average annual rate of 24%. This had provided a boost to overall deployment since the sea-based sector comprises a significant 24% share of total deployment.

In terms of destination, the Middle East remains the area with the strongest demand for expatriate labor despite the pull-up in Asia. This, notwithstanding the policy of governments there is to hire their own nationals as much as possible. A possible explanation is the dislocation inflicted on the labor market in the reion by the eruption of the Gulf crisis.

As of last September, the Middle East absorbed 13,521 OCWs. These constituted 59% of total land-based deployment, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates cornered 10,286 and 1,404 workers, respectively, during the reference month. Such an absorption rate was more or less true for the entire nine-month period.

In Asia, labor shortages caused the relaxation of strict closed-door policies to foreign workers particularly in Hong Kong, Japan and Taiwan.

Since May this year, Japan has out-paced Hong Kong in the absorption of Philippine OCW's following the opening of additional worker categories for foreign workers, mainly medical workers, educational staff, professionals like lawyers and accountants and middle-level managers.

Last September, Asia was the choice destination of 7,049 workers, with Japan taking in 3,360 and Hong Kong, 2,571.

While the trend in overall deployment slowed to a negative 2.23% growth as of September after enjoying a slight 0.3% increment until August, processing activities at the POEA intensified by 15.5% from 391,177 to 451,892 workers during the nine-month period.

As in the deployment pattern, new hires comprised the majority of land-based workers who were processed. These increased by 41.15% from 132,493 to 187,008. Rehires, on the otherhand, decreased in number from 172,186 to 166,663 or a 3.2% drop.

The number of sea-based workers who were processed during the period also improved as in their deployment level. This year, processed sea-bound personnel grew by 13.5% from 86,498 to 98,141.

Thailand

Investment, Visa Agreements Reached With Hungary

BK0512033690 Bangkok THE NATION in English 5 Dec 90 p B1

[Text] Thailand and Hungary have agreed to sign two separate bilateral agreements on foreign investment protection and on the relaxation in visa requirements for diplomats and foreign service officials.

Commerce officials of both countries, meanwhile, agreed to hold the second meeting of the joint commission on trade early next year in Budapest. The agreements were reached during the Foreign Minister, Dr Geza Jeszenszky's visit, the first high-level trip to Asia since May this year, when an elected government in Hungary took power.

The minister will return to Budapest today. Prior to his four-day visit to Bangkok, Jeszenszky met his counterparts in Australia and New Zealand. According to Zoltan Sudy, director general of the Asia and Pacific Department of the Hungarian Foreign Ministry, the bilateral agreement on foreign investment protection will boost the confidence of Thai investors who are considering investments in the Eastern European country.

The agreement on relaxing visa procedures for diplomats and foreign service officials is aimed mainly at facilitating the entry of these personnel. However, as Sudy pointed [out], it is expected that the privilege will be extended to tourists and business people in the near future.

In May 1989, Thailand and Hungary signed an accord to eliminate dual taxation to encourage investment and to enhance economic cooperation between the two countries. Australia was the latest country to sign such an agreement with Hungary.

Hungary's Ambassador to Bangkok Peter Trung added that the meeting of the joint commission on trade is scheduled some time early next-year. But the meeting will be held in Budapest. Various bilateral trade issues, including joint economic efforts to penetrate the Indochina countries, will be discussed.

Cabinet Approves Shell, Caltex Contracts

BK0512020890 Bangkok THE NATION in English 5 Dec 90 p B1

[By Sorayut Sutthatsanachinda and Sam-ang Wutthisaksathit]

[Text] It took only 10 minutes yesterday for the Cabinet to discuss and approve the controversial Shell and Caltex draft contracts, pushed in together as unlisted agenda items for endorsement in the most sweeping fashion.

The go-ahead set in motion the creation of two additional oil refineries, which will be turning out petrol products by June 1995 with a capacity of 145,000 barrels a day in regard to Shell Company of Thailand Ltd and 120,000 barrels a day in the case of Caltex Oil (Thailand) Ltd.

It also laid to rest the highly controversial policy surrounding the way in which the Chatchai administration handled the refinery projects for Shell and Caltex, approved simultaneously in February this year.

But it was not until yesterday that, after a conspicuous delay, the Shell and Caltex contracts were submitted together for final Cabinet approval, so that both projects might start in the same competitive plain.

The Cabinet discussion concentrated on the site at Map Ta Phut in Rayong, where both refineries will be located. Prime

Minister Chatchai Chunhawan, who voiced particular concern for the Caltex refinery, asked at the meeting whether there would be adequate land for Caltex.

Praman Adireksan, Industry Minister, replied that adequate land would be available to both Shell and Caltex and that it would be necessary for the Industrial Estate Authority of Thailand to invest in reclaiming land from the sea at Map Ta Phut for the purpose.

According to Praman, the industrial estate agency will need Bt [baht] 750 million to reclaim land measuring 510 rai for Shell, which already has 200 rai at its disposal. The Finance Minister and the industrial estate agency will together work out a loan package of finance [for] the land reclamation, a work that will be undertaken by Italian-Thai Development corporation.

The cost of land reclamation will be about Bt1.3 million per rai, still lower than the price of land at Map Ta Phut, which now stands at Bt2 million per rai. Shell will be required to contribute about Bt100 million for the land, and is expected to be charged in the land lease by more than Bt34,300 per rai/year.

A shell source said the company is ready to negotiate with the industrial estate agency on the price of the land lease, which might go up from what was originally estimated. However, it needs to reconsider the details in the event that it is required to contribute money for the land reclamation, the source added.

As for Caltex, the company has proposed that it will jointly invest with the industrial estate agency to reclaim land, a proposal that will result in a cheaper leasing fee than that for Shell.

Because of the delay in the final approval of both projects, Shell and Caltex will start their refinery operations by June 1995, instead of December 1994 as was originally scheduled.

Praman also suggested that the Industry Ministry should go ahead and sign the contracts with Shell and Caltex simultaneously at any time soon without having to go through any review procedure, although some minor details in the contracts will still have to be worked out.

The land clause for Shell has been revised by the order of the prime minister, who considered that both Shell and Caltex should start their projects on the same footing. The earlier Cabinet resolution said the land for the Shell refinery would be supplied by the government, and that Caltex would be responsible for procuring land for its refinery by itself.

The revised draft contracts require both companies to be responsible for the procurement of their land, although the government will provide assistance.

Both the Shell and Caltex projects will be subject to a five per cent tariff for imported machinery and equipment used in the refinery complex, although they are still entitled to full promotional privileges from the Board of Investment. For Shell, this means that it will cost it Bt500 million more in machinery import tariff.

Upon signing the contracts, both Shell and Caltex will pay the Industry Ministry Bt350 million each in special benefits, and the Petroleum Authority of Thailand, which will hold a 36 percent stake in each project in the initial period, will not be required to contribute to this part.

Shell and Caltex are also subject to a Bt1.4 billion bid and performance bond guarantee, which could be confiscated by the government if they fail a) to secure the refinery licence with 12 months after the signing of the contracts, b) purchase or lease land and c) complete construction contracts with the contractors to build the refineries within 18 months after receiving the refinery licences *without any condition.*

A question has been raised by industry observers as to why the bid and performance guarantees should be tied to the contractors, because the contracts are between the operators and the government.

Changes in Air Accord With Belgium Approved

BK0512075090 Bangkok Domestic Service in English 0000 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] The Cabinet yesterday approved a proposal by the Ministry of Transport and Communications to amend its air services agreement with Belgium on route schedules and frequencies. The ministry reported that delegations of both countries met in Brussels last September to discuss air transport between the two countries. During the meeting, the two sides signed a new confidential memorandum of understanding on 18 September to amend their air services accord. Under the confidential memorandum of understanding, new routes scheduled to be operated in both directions by airlines designated by the two governments have been mapped out and agreed upon.

Nigerian Arrested With 1.7 Kg of Heroin

BK0512044290 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 5 Dec 90 p 3

[Text] Phuket—A Nigerian was arrested at the airport yesterday on charges of attempting to smuggle 1.7 kilogrammes of heroin out of the country, allegedly contained in his guitar box. The suspect was identified as Christian Iffayishuvu Odumekwu, 28.

It was reported that Customs officials at the airport became suspicious when they found that his guitar, which was inside a black leather box, was unusually heavy. A thorough search was carried out which eventually uncovered a secret compartment concealing the heroin in five plastic packs, Customs officers said.

Odumekwu, according to a Customs source, planned to fly home via Singapore and Amsterdam. He reportedly told Customs officials that he had bought the drug for about 200,000 baht.

King Urges 'Flexibility' in Prebirthday Speech

BK0512024890 Bangkok THE NATION in English 5 Dec 90 p A1

[Excerpts] His Majesty the King said yesterday that flexibility was sometimes needed to solve urgent problems even if "Theoretical principles" are not strictly observed. He also advised that such solutions should also be part and parcel of any long-term project which would take into consideration the good and the security of the country and the people.

In a speech to thousands of well-wishers packing the Dusit Dalai Throne Hall to mark his birthday today, His Majesty also said, humbly and tongue-in-check, that Gen Chatchai Chunhawan overstated the king's role and contributions to the country in his speech.

"The prime minister mentioned at the beginning of his speech something to the effect that as the king I have done everything successfully by myself. This is quite a bit of an overstatement.

"Nobody can do everything alone. He needs others to help think and do things; otherwise there would be many flaws in his deeds. The most important flaw is that he would not be able to do something big, like administrating the country. After all the king at present does not carry the duty to run the country. He has someone else do it," His Majesty said.

However he thanked the premier for the encouraging words.

He said each and every one in the country has his or her own duty and responsibility but he must not restrict himself to that alone. Everybody must think of others' jobs too and the king sees that such a workstyle still exists in Thailand, enabling the country to progress and win recognition from the international community on its considerable achievements.

His Majesty also recounted a wide range of stories for the audience to draw his thoughts from them:

Recalling his encounters with villagers suffering serious ailments during his provincial trips His Majesty said he sometimes did not strictly observe procedures unlike the charity works conducted in foreign countries. In foreign countries charity works were more specialized and rules must be strictly followed but that would be too rigid in the case of Thailand, he said. [passage omitted]

On the salt mining controversy, His Majesty said solving the problem of profitable activities spoiling farmland and waterways should be part of a well-thought, far-sighted project.

One easy way to solve the problem is to regulate salt mining by prohibiting the practice of using water from rivers and creeks to cook salt and release the soiled water back to the water sources. Instead the salt miners should be required by law to pump up underground water and inject it back into the holes.

In this way the rivers would not be polluted and farmers who want to cultivate rice can do so while those who want to mine for salt can also earn money from the activity, His Majesty said.

He said the stories about his flood prevention ideas and the balance between paddy farming and salt mining were told to provide the audience with food for thought that any solution must be part and parcel of a comprehensive project. [passage omitted]

Minister Denies Complicity in Leaflet Issue

BK0512022090 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 5 Dec 90 p 1

[Text] Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan said yesterday it was unfair for him to be attacked in leaflets but said it did not bother him. Asked what he would do about the leaflets, Gen [General] Chatchai said: "What can I do? Let them do it. I have never attacked anybody."

Deputy Agriculture Minister Udomsak Thangthong yesterday hurriedly met with Gen Chatchai to assure him that he knew nothing about the leaflets, which MATICHON newspaper reported had been sent from his office to newspapers. The leaflets carried the letterhead of Gen Chatchai's Chat Thai Party and had Mr Udomsak's signature on them.

"Why would I use paper with the party's letterhead on it to write leaflets attacking the Prime Minister?" said Mr Udomsak, who is a senior Chat Thai member. He quoted the Prime Minister as saying the leaflets were "too much."

He said somebody might have stolen the paper from his office.

Education Minister Thianchai Sirisamphan said the leaflets were the work of cowards, and Industry Minister Praman Adireksaan said people should pay no attention to them.

Deputy Prime Minister Thongyot Chittawira said leaflets were common in a democracy. "We should ignore the accusations if they are untrue. If they are true, we should try to correct the faults they expose," he said.

Deputy Prime Minister Athit Kamlang-ek said the leaflets should be ignored. "Newspapers should not write about them. They are untrue and worthless," he said.

Meanwhile, Army Chief Suchinda Khraprayun yesterday shrugged off an accusation in a leaflet that he and other Class 5 Chulachomklao Military Academy officers were involved in the killing of students in the October 14, 1973 uprising.

He said the accusation was totally groundless as he was then military attache in Washington, while Deputy Army Chief Gen Itsarapheng Nunphakdi was then military attache in Britain. Gen Suchinda said whoever wrote the leaflet did not know the facts. He added he had paid no attention to it.

Asked to comment on why so many leaflets had been distributed to attack Class 5 officers, Gen Suchinda said: "I don't know. Probably Thailand is the country of leaflets."

Vietnam

Eighth National Assembly Session Opens 5 Dec

Session Set 5-21 Dec

BK0512010890 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] The eighth session of the Eighth National Assembly will open at the Ba Dinh Conference Hall in Hanoi this morning, 5 December.

In this session, the National Assembly will review the implementation of socioeconomic tasks for 1990; determine orientations, tasks, and plans for socioeconomic development in 1991; examine the implementation of the 1990 state budget; and discuss the state budgetary estimate for 1991 and the final balances of the 1989 state budget. The deputies will also hear a number of supplementary reports on the struggle against corruption and smuggling.

Also in this session, the Council of Ministers will present four draft laws to the National Assembly for consideration and approval. These are the laws on private trading, on share-holding companies, the law that amends and supplements the law on military service, and the law on the Vietnam People's Army officers.

The Council of Ministers will also present the draft laws below to the National Assembly for its views and, later, will publicize them for public views and further rectification before resubmitting them to the National Assembly for approval in a later session. These include the law on forestry, the law on popularization of level-I general education, and the law on child protection, care, and education.

The last part contains the following:

- —The National Assembly will give its views on a report on the activities of the Eighth National Assembly and the Council of State over the past three years or more, as well as on its course of action until the end of its term of office.
- —The standing organizational and operating procedures of the Nationalities Council and of various standing committees of the National Assembly.
- —The amendment and supplement to a number of articles in the National Assembly deputies' statute and in procedures of the session.
- —Reports by the juridical and control sectors and a report on our state's foreign relations activities.

The eighth session of the Eighth National Assembly, which begins today, will last until 21 December.

Nguyen Van Linh Attends Opening

BK0512061090 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] This morning, the Eighth National Assembly solemnly opened its eighth session at the Ba Dinh Conference Hall in Hanoi, Voice of Vietnam correspondents reported. Before attending the session, National Assembly deputies paid tribute to President Ho Chi Minh in his mausoleum. National Assembly Chairman Le Quang Dao directed the session.

Attending the opening meeting were Comrades Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the party Central Committee; Pham Van Dong, adviser to the party Central Committee; Vo Chi Cong, chairman of the Council of State; Do Muoi, chairman of the Council of Ministers; and many members of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and Secretariat and of the Council of Ministers. Also on hand were members of the diplomatic corps and numerous local and foreign press correspondents.

In his opening speech, National Assembly Chairman Le Quang Dao pointed out: In this session, the National Assembly will devote much time to analyzing and assessing the results of implementation of the National Assembly resolutions on the socioeconomic tasks and state budget for 1990. It will decide on the orientations, objectives, and measures to carry out socioeconomic tasks and make up state budget estimates for 1991, and examine the status of the antismuggling and anticorruption drives and the work of the people's courts and people's organs of control. In this session the National Assembly will hear reports and express its views on the Draft Strategy for Socioeconomic Stabilization and Development in Vietnam Up to the Year 2000, the orientations and tasks of the socioeconomic development plan for the 1991-95 period. The National Assembly will hear the foreign minister's report on our government's diplomatic work in 1990 and the orientations and tasks of the foreign service in 1991. Concerning legislative work, the National Assembly will discuss and decide on adopting some draft laws. In this session, the National Assembly will also comment on, discuss, and adopt a number of reports on the draft statutes on some National Assembly activities.

Following Chairman Le Quang Dao's opening speech, Vo Van Kiet, first vice chairman of the Council of

Ministers, on behalf of the council, read a report on the 1991 Socioeconomic Development Plan. Comrade Vo Van Kiet's report was composed of two parts, with part one providing an appraisal of the situation in 1990 and a general review of the 1986-1990 five-year period, and part two presenting some points of the 1991 socioeconomic development plan.

This morning, the National Assembly heard Finance Minister Hoang Quy's report, on behalf of the Council of Ministers, on the implementation of the 1990 state budget, the 1991 state budget estimates, and the final statement of the 1989 state budget.

This afternoon, the National Assembly will continue to meet in plenary session at the Ba Dinh Conference Hall.

Vo Van Kiet Delivers Report

BK0512093290 Hanoi VNA in English 0706 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec 5—The 8th session of the Vietnam National Assembly opened at the Ba Dinh Conference Hall here this morning.

Delivering the report of the Council of Ministers on the 1991 Socio-Economic Development Plan, Vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers Vo Van Kiet said: "1991 has quite a special significance because it is the beginning of our 10-year strategy aimed at getting the country out of the state of poverty and under-development."

"Hence, the report said, the most all-embracing objective of 1991 is to consolidate and develop by all means the achievements recorded in 1990, strive to overcome new difficulties, maintain stability in the political, economic and social fields, not to let major upheavals occur in order to generate a posture for faster and steadier development in the following years."

The report outlines the following major targets for 1991:

- An increase by 5.6 percent of the Gross National Product (GNP), by 5.8 percent of the national income, by 6 percent of the value of industrial, small industrial and handicraft production and by 4.5 percent of agriculture.

An increase of at least 16 percent of the export value.

A reduction of the birth rate by 0.6 per thousand compared to 1990 and keeping the population growth rate at the current 2.13 percent.

The export of rice must be strictly considered in the light of domestic needs.

The export of aquatic products is to achieve a value of 230 million U.S dollars.

Draft Platform on Party Building Presented

First Installment

BK0112040490 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 30 Nov 90

["Draft Platform on Socialist Construction for the Transitional Period"—first of three installments]

[Text]

Chapter One: Great Victory and Lessons of the Vietnamese Revolution

Entering the 20th century under French colonial domination, Vietnamese territory was still engulfed in darkness. Many struggles for independence were defeated one-by-one because there had been no correct line. With profound patriotism and love of the people, Uncle Ho set out to seek ways for national salvation. Through patriotism he came to Marxism-Leninism, creatively applied this doctrine to Vietnam, organized the Communist Party, and set forth a platform for liberating the nation and society, victoriously staging the people's national democratic revolution and advancing the country to socialism.

Throughout its birth, the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] has assumed the mission of leading the revolution in our country. In 45 years from the time of its founding until the entire nation became independent and unified, our party and Uncle Ho led the people to win glorious victories, writing eloquent pages of the nation's heroic history. At the age of 15, the party led the people to stage the victorious August Revolution to establish the Democratic Republic of Vietnam [DRV], advancing our nation into a new era. The party led the people to defeat the French colonialists' war of aggression, starting the collapse of the old colonialism, liberating half of the country, and transitioning the North to socialism. Then, the party led the people to victoriously stage the resistance struggle against the United States for national salvation, contributed to weakening neocolonialism, liberated the South, unified the country, and advanced the entire country to socialism.

Following the 1975 Spring Victory, the revolution in our country shifted to a new stage. Our people continued to uphold patriotism and revolutionary heroism and have scored important achievements, unified the country, established and consolidated the people's administration in the South, restored the economy, partly overcame the heavy consequences of war, established the new production relations step-by-step, initially built the material and technical bases of socialism, firmly defended the fatherland, and fulfilled the international obligations.

In the course of socialist construction, our party has exerted much effort to study, seek, and determine common lines, and to point out correct objectives and guidelines for building socialism. However, our party committed a mistake in strategic leadership and in determining specific lines for some important fields. It took too much time to set forth the initial stage of the transitional period, hastily carried out socialist transformation, wanted to immediately wipe out the multi-sector economy, accelerated the building of heavy industry while necessary premises were not available, slowly renovated the economic management mechanism, and made many mistakes in reforming prices, wages and money, in the ideological and organizational tasks, and so forth.

At its Sixth Congress, the party criticized and admitted its mistakes and shortcomings and set forth lines and policies to renovate all aspects of the social life. Our people have scored significant achievements in the renovation cause. The socioeconomic situation is initially stabilized for further advancement. This has affirmed that our path is correct.

From the reality of our revolution, we can draw on various great lessons as follows:

1. Upholding national independence and the socialist banner is a significant lesson for our revolutionary process. National independence is the first condition for implementing socialism, and only by taking the socialist path will we be able to achieve real national independence. Triumphantly building socialism and firmly protecting the socialist fatherland are the two strategic tasks that have an organic relationship in the current revolutionary stage. Our entire party and people will continue to uphold national independence and the socialist banner, the glorious banner handed over by Uncle Ho to our present and next generations.

2. The revolutionary cause is the cause of the people, for the people, and by the people. The strength of the party depends on its solidarity with the people. A proverb says: Easy tasks cannot be fulfilled without the people's help; acutely difficult work can be completed with the people's assistance. This is the great lesson on the people's strength. As a result, all of the party activities must stem from the people's legitimate interests and aspirations. Bureaucratism, authoritarianism, and the practices of distancing oneself from the people and seeking special privileges are acts damaging the strength of the party and the revolution and may lead to unpredicted serious losses to our nation's fate and destiny.

3. Combine the national power with that of the era, and the domestic strength with that of the international one in order to create an integrated strength to triumphantly carry out the revolutionary tasks. Today, in face of the world people's struggle for peace, national independence, democracy, and social progress as well as the swift development of the modern scientific-technological revolution and the globalization of the world economy, it is essential to firmly combine the national with international factors, and the traditional factor with the modern one in order to lead the nation to advance further.

4. It is essential to protect party unity as we do the apples of our eyes. This is our party's lofty tradition that helps strengthen party power and serves as a basis for building the all-people's unity, for consolidating international solidarity, and for implementing Uncle Ho's teaching: Unity, Unity, Great Unity; Victory, Victory, Great Victory. This is the great lesson for our party and people that can significantly guarantee all victories for the revolution of our nation.

5. The party leadership is the decisive factor for all victories of the Vietnamese revolution. We cannot advance toward socialism without the CPV leadership. The party must firmly maintain its revolutionary and scientific nature, creatively apply the Marxist-Leninist doctrine, and consistently enrich its intellect. All lines and policies of the party must stem from reality and be based on the development of the objective law. To ensure that our party is always a vanguard revolutionary unit, a leader, and a faithful servant to the people, it is essential to overcome two serious shortcomings: mistakes in formulating policies and bureaucratic practices that distance the party from the people. If the party firmly grasps the above-mentioned lessons and applies them to carrying out its activities, it will be able to firmly advance further and maintain its role as a political vanguard force for our society.

Chapter Two: Transition to Socialism in Our Country

1. Our country is transitioning to socialism at a time when the international situation has undergone major changes. Following World War II, socialism has become a world system. The Soviet Union and other socialist countries have scored great achievements in developing the socioeconomic, cultural, and technological fields to raise the people's living standards. Socialist countries with their vigorous growth used to be the firm and strong mainstay to accelerate the national liberation movement and the democratic movement of the working class and people of capitalist countries. As the main force to protect peace and repel the danger of an extermination war, they have made considerable contributions to the struggle for peace, national independence, democracy and social progress.

However, mistakes and contradictions accumulated over a long period and only overcome slowly are the root cause that has driven many socialist countries into serious and prolonged crises. In some countries the Communist Party has lost its leading role in administration, and the political and social regime has changed. Hostile forces are capitalizing on these mistakes and difficulties to launch a counterattack to wipe out socialism. Acute contradictions between socialism and capitalism are taking place.

Socialism is facing many difficulties. Communists will draw necessary lessons from realities to creatively develop and correctly apply Marxism-Leninism to the specific conditions of each country, and find out correct measures to win the people's support. Socialism will recover its vitality, and despite the winding path it will finally score a victory.

Following World War II, colonialism has collapsed fragment by fragment and the area of capitalist domination has narrowed. Faced with such a situation, capitalism has done everything it could to adjust in order to prolong its existence. By using scientific and technical innovations, many capitalist countries have quickly increased their production and labor productivity and engaged in a new stage of production force development.

The revolution of modern technology on the one hand has created conditions for capitalism to take new steps of development, while on the other it has constantly deepened the fundamental and inherent contradictions between the ever-expanding socialization of production forces and the regime of private capitalist ownership over production means. It has further deepened the contradictions between the major capitalist centers, the monopolistic capitalist corporations and the multinational companies.

Despite many difficulties, the working class and the laboring people are still struggling against state monopolistic capitalism and multinational capitalism for the sake of the people's livelihood and democracy. The basic contradictions of capitalism obviously cannot disappear. On the contrary, they become increasingly acute and will finally lead capitalism to inevitable disintegration.

Independent and developing countries must continue the extremely arduous and complicated struggle against neocolonialism under many forms, including the struggle against wars waged by the belligerent forces of aggression, in order to firmly maintain independence and sovereignty, control their rich resources and abundant labor forces, fight poverty and backwardness, settle social and nationality contradictions, and meet the pressing needs of the people's life.

Mankind is facing acute global issues related to the destiny of nations. These are preserving peace, repelling the danger of a war of nuclear extermination, protecting the ecological environment, conserving and recycling natural resources, limiting the population boom, and preventing and controlling dangerous diseases. The most effective way to settle global problems is to coordinate the manpower and abilities of all nations in the world with a high sense of responsibility.

The modern scientific and technological revolution is being carried out vigorously in various countries with different rates of progress. The emergence of a new industrial production system has created a great impact on the development of social labor forces, thereby leading to changes in economic structure in many nations and vigorously accelerating the international division of labor and relations. The unprecedented progress of the scientific- technological domain has marked a new peak in the development of mankind's intellect. It has created profound effects on the growth of the historical evolution and daily life of nations.

Peace, globalization of the economy, the shift to industry, and the exchanging of culture and information have become a common trend and are the favorable conditions for developing nations.

The general situation of the current era is very complicated and fraught with differences between conflicts and cooperation and between detente and confrontation. The basic objective of our era is the shift from capitalism to socialism on a global scale, starting with the Great October Soviet Revolution. This is the historic protracted era which must undergo a decisive, arduous class struggle in each nation and the world as a whole.

Against the background of major international changes, we must strive to narrow the gap between our nation and the developed countries. We must take opportunities to surge forward to catch up with the progress made by nations and the era. This is the correct path for our nation.

2. Our nation advanced toward socialism from a colonial semi-feudalist society with a small-scale production economy by bypassing the stage of capitalist development and after suffering the heavy consequences of decades of war and vestiges of colonialism and feudalism. Vietnam, however, attained basic favorable conditions for advancement: The country has regained independence and unification and is enjoying peace and carrying out socialist construction. Vietnamese are heroic and intelligent people who nurture a determination to vigorously surge forward to carry out their task diligently and creatively. The greatest and most valuable power of our nation is the Vietnamese people's capabilities, including their intelligence.

Advancing toward socialism against the background of the above-mentioned internal and international situation, we must strive to enhance the spirit of self-reliance; broaden relations with foreign countries; and seek the correct, appropriate path and form for building socialism. We are determined to unswervingly advance along the socialist path. This is the struggle objective of our party and people in the past, present, and future. The path we have chosen is in conformity with the common evolutionary trend of the era. The socialist society that our people are building is the society in which man is liberated; the laboring people are masters of the nation; the economy develops vigorously; the national culture is upheld; and all people live a bountiful, free, and happy life and are provided with favorable conditions for individual progress. This society also ensures social justice and democracy, encourages unity among people of various nationalities, promotes assistance among them, and strengthens friendly relations with other nations in the world.

In our society, the fundamental contradiction in the transitional period lies between the inevitable need to advance to socialism along with socioeconomic underdevelopment, and the forces precluding the fulfillment of this need. To settle this basic contradiction, it is necessary to grasp the following basic principles:

1. Build the socialist state—the state of the people, for the people and by the people—which uses the worker-peasant-intellectual alliance as its foundation. This is to be done under party leadership. Our state governs the society by law, brings into full play the people's democratic rights, and dictatorially deals with all acts of enemy sabotage.

2. The development of production forces and national industrialization are the central tasks aimed at gradually building the material and technical bases of socialism and constantly raising social labor productivity and the people's living standard.

3. In keeping with the development of production forces, gradually establish socialist production relations from the lower to higher levels with diversified forms of ownership. Also, promote the positive impacts of the multisectorial economy, with the state and collective sectors as a foundation; develop a socialist-oriented commodity economy; and practice different forms of distribution of income, with distribution based on the results of work and efficiency as the main form.

4. To carry out the socialist revolution in the ideological and cultural fields, we must ensure guiding roles for Marxism-Leninism, the values of Ho Chi Minh, and ethics and lifestyles of the intellectuals of the society. We must also build a virtuous and civilized society that cares for humanity and its dignity, and one that aims for higher intellectual standards for the people in the fight against bourgeois ideology, neocolonialist influence, and the harmful vestiges of feudalism and petty bourgeois psychology.

5. We must implement national unity as a domestic policy, consolidate and expand the national united front, rally all forces in the struggle for people's prosperity and national strength. We must implement a foreign policy of peace and friendship with all nations, adhere faithfully to working class internationalism, and unite with all forces struggling for peace, national independence, democracy and social progress in the world.

6. Building socialism and defending the socialist fatherland are two strategic tasks of the Vietnamese revolution. While placing the national construction at the frontline, we will always be vigilant, consolidate national defense, assure political security and social order and safety, and defend the country and revolutionary gains.

The overall goal we should attain at the end of the transition period is the basic completion of the political, economic, cultural and social foundations of socialism, enabling the new society to develop on its own ground.

The transition to socialism in our country is a long process going through many stages. The goal of the initial stage is to bring about, through all-round renewal, firm stabilization of the economic, political and social life, creating the momentum for swift development in the subsequent stages.

We should try, by the end of the initial stage, to have:

—Raised social productivity and economic efficiency and increased per capita income at least twofold compared to the what it is now. We should also have achieved considerable capital accumulation from the economy and met the minimal needs of the people on food, clothing, housing, transportation, education, rest, disease prevention, and treatment.

—Consolidated and developed the state-run and collective economic sectors, which will occupy a predominant place in the multisectorial economy. In the early nineties, the new system of economic management will have basically taken form, paving the way for the development of the socialist-oriented commodity economy.

—Consolidated the political system, bringing into play the people's right as masters, enhancing the state's management efficiency and the leadership of the party.

—Raised the level of the people's cultural, moral and intellectual life, and driven back negative social phenomena.

—Firmly safeguarded the socialist fatherland, political security, social order and safety. This stage will end after two or three five-year plans.

Chapter Three: Socioeconomic Development

1. Development of an economy for the sake of the people's prosperity and the country's strength.

Socioeconomic development is an undertaking of the people, for the people, and by the people. The strategies and plans for socioeconomic development are directed toward the release and enhancement of all human potential with a view to accelerating the growth of the productive forces, overcoming poverty and backwardness, and making our people prosperous and our country strong.

Development of a commodity economy is the necessary path toward large-scale production, and a question of law-bearing character governing the socialist economy. We must build a planned commodity economy and bring into operation a market mechanism with state management.

The commodity economy with a multisectorial structure is based on various forms of ownership of production means, in which the state and the collective sectors are to be constantly consolidated and developed. The individual and the private capitalist sectors are entitled to expand production and business in branches beneficial to national interests and the people's livelihood with the state sector playing a leading role over the other economic sectors through cooperation, integration and competition by business methods.

The socialization of ownership relations must be based on the character and the development process of the productive forces and come about through the development of state-run enterprises, state-capitalist enterprises, joint-stock enterprises including state-run joint-stock enterprises, and cooperatives, and their joint ventures and integration.

To achieve a smooth economic interflow throughout the country, and to expand international division of labor and economic cooperation. To take full advantage of foreign capital sources, technologies, and markets. To expand foreign economic relations and to strengthen protection of political security, the cultural quintessence and the moral and spiritual values of the nation.

Science and technology are the key factors determining the development of productive forces. The strategy on science and technology is aimed at industrializing and modernizing the country, moving from a low productivity backward technology to a high productivity advanced technology. To combine different levels of technology and promptly absorb new technologies. To speed the growth of the country's scientific and technological potential, to promote the integrated development of social, natural and technical sciences, together with the development of education and culture and heightening the people's intellectual standards.

To gradually build a rational economic structure embracing a wide range of trades and occupations, economic forms, scales and technological levels, all of which will come into shape and develop as the commodity economy evolves.

To gradually alter the structure of the economy to serve the needs of industrialization and modernization, ensuring constant, dynamic, stable and highly efficient development of the economy.

To ensure the steady production of staple and non-staple food on the basis of an all-round development of agriculture to satisfy demands for consumer goods to promote major export items in large quantities and of a high quality. To pay attention to processing industries and the construction of infrastructure to expand service activities and to develop selectively a number of spearhead industries. To give priority to certain branches of heavy industry directly serving agriculture, light industry, processing industries, export and heavy industry itself.

To consolidate agricultural cooperatives, to perfect the various forms of output contracting, to promote the role of cooperatives in management and services and the role of cooperative members's households in an autonomous economy. To expand and accelerate the process of agricultural cooperativization in various forms and at different levels. The road to large-scale production in agriculture goes through a redivision of labor, socialization of scientific and technical advances. To encourage cooperative economic entities and households with outstanding results. In the meantime, to develop rural industries, to expand services, communications and transport, information and postal facilities, and to build public welfare amenities.

To create the rural market, and to link agriculture with the national and world markets.

To abolish the management mechanism based on bureaucratic centralism and state subsidies, to build synchronously a new economic management mechanism meeting the needs for the planned development of a multi-sector commodity economy. To determine the rights of the owner and those of the user of production means, as well as the state's management rights in the economic domain, so as to ensure that every means of production comes under someone's control and responsibility and that all economic units are autonomous and responsible for the outcome of their business activities. To renew and heighten the state's effectiveness in providing guidance, control and regulation at the macro-level.

Second Installment

BK0212061790 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 30 Nov 90

["Draft platform on socialist construction for the transitional period"—second of three installments]

[Text] 2. Social policies:

Service of man is the objective of social policies and socioeconomic development programs. The results of economic development provide the material basis for meeting the requirements of social policies.

Social policies should reflect a sense of responsibility and gratitude toward war martyrs' families, war invalids, ailing soldiers, families that have rendered meritorious service to the revolution, veterans and retired cadres, and take due care of the living conditions of the elderly, the helpless, the handicapped, the disabled, and orphans.

Create an environment and conditions to ensure employment to all working people, especially the youth; improve the conditions of working people and all citizens in terms of work, food, housing, and travel arrangements; respond ever better to their needs in terms of education, rest, and medical care; improve the living and working conditions of mothers; care for, educate, and protect children; raise the people's health standard; and improve the conditions of life, study, and work of young people.

The state is to adopt a reasonable housing policy for both urban and rural areas, to encourage collectives and individual households to invest in building new houses and repairing existing ones.

Strictly observe protection of the living environment, preserve ecological balance for present and future generations, and make rational use of natural resources. The development of the commodity-based multisectoral economy and the implementation of social policies will have a direct impact on the social and class structure during the transitional period.

Bring about a social and class structure serving as a solid socio-political basis for the new regime. The working class is the vanguard class in the building of socialism.

Work out a policy aimed at the quantitative and qualitative growth of the working class.

The peasantry plays a major role in the cause of national construction.

Economic and social policies must aim at the material and moral welfare of the peasants and at mobilizing their active participation in industrialization and in the building of modern agriculture and a new countryside. The intelligentsia constitutes a precious national property and a driving force for the development of the country.

Build up the intelligentsia, nurture talent, and foster and make efficient use of intellectual potential.

Pay due attention to the interests of different strata of the population and bring out their potential.

The multiethnic Vietnamese community shares an age-old history of fighting and nation-building. Unity, equality, mutual assistance among ethnic groups, and preservation of ethnic identity make up the fundamental approach governing the whole policy of the party and the state on nationalites.

Carry out a policy of national unity on the basis of respect for the interests, traditions, cultures, languages and customs of the various ethnic groups.

Combat great-nation mentality and narrow-minded nationalism, as well as ethnic discrimination and division, create all conditions for ethnic groups to help one another in keeping abreast of each other and to narrow down the gap in development levels among them. Economic and social policies must take into account the specifics of the various regions and ethnic groups.

Carry out a correct policy on religion on the principle of respect for and guarantee of the right to freeedom of belief.

Practise non-discrimination in terms of civic rights and obligations between religious believers and non-believers or between followers of different creeds.

Overseas Vietnamese are traditionally united, patriotic and looking to the fatherland. The party and the state pay attention to and have policies for encouraging overseas Vietnamese to contribute to the building of their native places and the country.

3. Building of a socialist culture oriented to the shaping of the new man and the new lifestyle.

The new culture is the aggregate result of the socialist revolution in productive forces, production relations, and superstructure. The new culture contributes its direct part to the development of human personality and creates a lofty, rich, and varied intellectual life that is humanistic, democratic, and progressive in substance.

Build a new lifestyle directed towards enhancing the fine traditions in human relations; lead a life marked by loyalty and affection, unity, and mutual assistance; have a sense of civic responsibility; abide by the law; protect public property and maintain public hygiene, order and safety; combat superstition, depravation, and a way of life which values money above all else.

Inherit and creatively develop the fine cultural traditions of the various ethnic groups in our country and assimilate the quintessence of human culture, leaving out what is counter to historical and cultural progress.

Respect the rights of citizens to information and to freedom of speech.

Develop mass-media and multiform, multi-directional, timely, truthful and useful information.

Literature and arts play an important role in the cause of building socialism and shaping of the new man and the new culture. Literature and arts nurture and elevate the Vietnamese soul, assert and highlight genuine values, and foster the true, the good, and the beautiful from a progressive perspective.

Expose and criticize the obsolete, the evil, and the proscastinatory.

The family is the living cell of society, the beloved cradle wherein a person's whole life course is nurtured, the environment wherein a way of life is inculcated and the personality is shaped. The states's socio-economic policies should pay attention to foster the family and to heighten education in family obligations among all strata of the population.

Units of production, work, study, and combat should form an environment for building a work-style with discipline, technical skills, high productivity, and efficiency, where comradeship and fellowship can flourish and the personality of the new man and the new culture be fostered.

4. Science and education.

Science and technology play a key role in industrialization. Concentrate scientific and technical resources on the building and gradual modernization of the material-technical base. Perfect existing technologies and prepare for the development of new technologies. Select spearhead technologies for which we have a comparative advantage in terms of natural and intellectual resources.

Social sciences are to contribute to clarifying theoretical issues related to socialism and the transition period, offering correct and timely answers to political, economic, social, ideological, and cultural questions, providing scientific grounds for the elaboration of overall lines, policies, and strategies for national development and supplying the substance matter from which is made the new form of consciousness.

Education is the endeavor to raise the people's intellectual standards and to train and shape humans and serve immediate socio-economic tasks while preparing the country for entering stages of long-term development. Education is an undertaking of the whole people. The central task of education is to train young generations into working people with a sense of mastery, knowledge, professional qualifications, and an active and creative attitude toward labor. The state should work out an all-round policy to achieve compulsory education commensurate with the needs and capacity of the economy and to discover and foster special skills and talents. Promote socialization and diversification of the national education. Train a body of teachers with high ideological and professional standards to pay attention to the improvement of teachers' living conditions.

Chapter Four: National Defence, Security and Foreign Policy

1. Our national defence task is to firmly defend the fatherland and the socialist regime, the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of our country. The task of our state and people under the leadership of the party is to defend the fatherland, to consolidate national defence by the whole population, and to build the People's Armed Forces.

Closely combine economy with national defence and vice-versa in all socio-economic development plans. Economic development must go hand in hand with the strengthening of our defence potential, gradually setting up a network of defence by the whole population and building the People's Armed Forces of ever higher quality.

Sum up our rich experience in conducting people's warfare and building People's Armed Forces and perfect military policy and art in the new stage and stand ready to tackle any contingency.

The correctness of our military policy and art is an important and immediate guarantee for the cause of the defence of our fatherland. It is necessary to gradually build the national defense industry, ensuring that the armed forces have increasingly better equipment. As the decisive force depends on the increasingly improved quality of the armed forces, we must constantly concern ourselves with providing training and additional political, military, scientific, cultural, and technical training to militarymen, especially the contingents of career officers and noncommisisoned officers; ensure the material and spiritual life of soldiers; and adopt appropriate policies toward officers and men and the army's rear.

Our People's Armed Forces, endowed with a history of heroic struggle and an extremely fine tradition, are of the people and for the people. They fight for the fatherland's independence and freedom and the people's happiness. They should accomplish all assigned missions, overcome all difficulties, and defeat all enemies. The sacrifice of our armed forces are extremely great and this should be remembered forever by the Vietnamese people of various generations.

2. The transition to socialism in our country is a long and complex process. Hostile forces ceaselessly seek to undermine our country with many cunning and malicious tricks, trying to create opposition forces to foment instability in our society.

Safeguarding national security is one of the most important tasks of our state and people. Stability and the all-round development of social life is a solid foundation for national security. Once national security is well maintained, it will create favorable conditions for national stabilization and development, for ensuring peace from within and effectively preventing sabotage from outside.

Safeguarding national security is the undertaking of the people. It is necessary to rely on the people, constantly heighten their political vigilance, build a people's security network, closely combine the mass movement for the safeguarding of the fatherland's security, and ensure the aggregate strength of the whole political system with specialized forces and professional measures. The people's security forces should do their best to serve and defend the people's rights as masters and their lives and property, and resolutely suppress and relentlessly attack counterrevolutionaries and criminals of all kinds.

The social management policy considers crime prevention, education, and the reeducation of the criminals as its basic measure. On the other hand, the punishment of criminals is to be undertaken as an active and regular measure to curb crime and help crime prevention. The People's Security Forces, built into strong and modern regular forces, serve as the core and thrust of the national security front. They should be a fighting contingent absolutely loyal to the fatherland and people under the leadership of the party.

3. The objective of the foreign policy of our party and state is to create international conditions favorable to our cause of national construction and defense, and to contribute to the world cause of peace, national independence, democracy, and social progress.

Our party and state are to pursue relentlessly a foreign policy of independence, sovereignty, and international solidarity, combining our national strength with the strength of our time, our national interests with the world's common imterests, and genuine patriotism with working class internationalism.

Strive tirelessly to consolidate and develop the traditional friendship and cooperation with the Soviet Union and other socialist countries. Treasure and develop the traditional ties engendered by our people and the peoples of Laos and Cambodia in the protracted struggles for the independence and freedom of their respective countries.

We pledge to do our best to safeguard and develop these fine traditions in the new stage.

Strive for the restoration of friendship cooperation with the Communist Party of China and the People's Republic of China.

The Communist Party of Vietnam consistently supports the struggles of the working class and peoples of all countries against the reactionary forces in the interest of peace, national independence, democracy, and social progress. The Communist Party of Vietnam is ready to establish and broaden relations with all revolutionry, national and democratic parties and movements, with social-democratic parties and all forces striving for world peace and social progress.

Broaden the ties of cooperation, friendship, and mutual assistance with developing countries in Asia and the Pacific, Africa and Latin America, with a view to overcoming poverty and backwardness and defending legitimate political and economic interests. Pay great attention to the development of relations with Southeast Asian countries and the building of this region into a zone of peace, stability, freedom, and neutrality. Continue taking an active part in the Nonaligned Movement for peace, national independence, and development.

Vietnam is ready to establish and broaden relations of friendship and cooperation with all countries, irrespeetive of socio-political regimes on the basis of the five principles of peaeceful coexistence, mutual respect for each other's independence and sovereignty, noninterference in each other's internal affairs, and nonuse of force or threat of force in international relations, as well as to expand cooperation based on equality and mutual benefit.

Chapter Five: The Political System.

The political system of our country comprises the party, the state, the Vietnam Fatherland Front, mass organizations, and social institutions structured and working in a mechanism to ensure fully the people's power under the leadership of the party.

The essence of the renewal and consolidation of our political system is the building and gradual perfecting of socialist democracy, allowing every citizen to exercise his right as true master in the building of the new society, with duties and interests attached to work, with the right to take part in the management of the state, and with the obligation to defend the fatherland and the gains of the revolution.

Democracy in the economic sphere is fundamental. Every citizen has the right to freely carry out production and business activities; freely choose his place of residence; freely travel for the purpose of business or residence within the limits prescribed by law; and exercise the right to direct control over the process of production, business, distribution, and fulfillment of obligations toward the state.

Democracy in the political sphere is given expression in the citizen's right to vote, stand for election, choose and revoke deputies to elected bodies and office-bearers appointed by the latter, take part in lawmaking and demand strict implementation of laws by the state, and defend the regime of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the system of people's power against all sabotage activities by hostile elements. The party and the state are to consult the people before issuing major policies, laws, and decisions, and to provide timely answers to questions raised by the people.

In the intellectual field, the citizen is to be guaranteed the right to information; freedom of speech; and free scientific, literary, and artistic research and creation for the sake of the people and social progress.

Our party and state bring into full play the right of the people as masters; combat all acts encroaching on the liberties of the citizen; and overcome tendencies to formal, extremist, and bourgeois democracy.

Realization of socialist democracy is at the same time an objective and a motive force of the new society.

The pivot of the renewal and consolidation of the political system consists of clear demarcation and correct definition of the respective functions of and the relationship between the party and the state, between the party and mass organizations, and between the party and social institutions.

Final Installment

BK0212084590 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 30 Nov 90

["Draft Platform on Socialist Construction for the Transitional Period"—last of three installments]

[Text] The CPV is at the same time the leading body and a constituent part of the political system and constantly submits itself to control by the people. The party effects its leadership through its platform, general lines, strategies, and major policies and by controlling and supervising their implementation. The party does not substitute itself for other bodies in the political system. Its method of leadership is by persuasion and example.

The party pays great attention to the training of cadres and to the recommendation of eligible party and nonparty cadres to the various state bodies, mass organizations, and social institutions through the channel of democratic elections and appointment.

The state, as a body expressing the will and rights of the people and administering the whole country and all aspects of social life, must be built into a body vested with full power by the people. Its organization and operations must be based on the principle of democratic centralism.

The National Assembly is the highest organ of state power functioning continuously and fulfilling all tasks and exercising all rights as stipulated by the Constitution.

The Council of Ministers elected by the National Assembly is the highest executive body, administering all state affairs under the supervision of the National Assembly.

The courts and procurator's offices at all levels act independently from the executive bodies. The courts shall obey only the law in making judgments and passing sentence.

All state bodies, cadres, and civil servants should truly keep close to the people, respect them, listen to them, and trust them. Concrete norms should be set for cadres and civil servants in terms of competence, professionalism, responsibility, and behavior in the service of the people. These norms should be made public so the people may know them and control their application.

The state administers society by law. We should build law into all activities in society, ensure lawmaking and practice of the law, and live and work in accordance with the law. All citizens, without exception, are equal before the law. Clear demarcation should be made between the function of state management and that of production and business management.

The administrative organs at all levels must elaborate policies and plans aimed at economic, cultural, and social development; at raising the people's living standards; at ensuring national defense and security; and at maintaining order and state discipline and law.

It is necessary to raise the quality of cadres in charge of the state apparatus and take great care in the selection and basic training and specialization of cadres, considering the effectiveness of their work as the main yardstick.

It is necessary to renew and consolidate the state apparatus, and to streamline it and ensure its high efficiency, making it a truly democratic institution embodying the people's power.

The Vietnam Fatherland Front [VFF], mass organizations, and social institutions are bodies operating on the principle of self-management and cooperation on an equal footing. They play an important role in uniting the entire people in the tasks of building and defending the fatherland, practicing democracy, renewing society, disseminating revolutionary ideals and ethics, and bringing into effect citizens' rights and duties.

The above-mentioned political and social organizations take part in the management of the country and enjoy the right to supervize the work of the state organs and to appraise, question, and petition the leading and managing bodies.

The party respects the independent and self-managing character of mass organizations and social institutions and supports all their positive and creative activities. The party sincerely welcomes all comments they make about the leadership of the party as well as individual party members.

Chapter Six: The CPV in the Building of Socialism

The CPV has the mission of leading our country's revolution toward socialism. The party has opted for Marxism-Leninism—the ideology of the working class—as its ideological basis; has inherited and built on the values of Ho Chi Minh's thought, morality, and lifestyle; and has adopted democratic centralism as its basic organizational principle. The CPV is the political vanguard of the whole society, representing the interests of the working class, the laboring people, and the entire nation. All activities of the party are inspired by the fundamental idea that all interests are for the peoples, that all rights rest with the people, that the task of renewal and building is the responsibility of the people, and that all powers are vested in and all forces are derived from the people.

The party is the leader and most faithful servant of the people. The party sets as its supreme goal the task of serving the fatherland, the working class, and the people. The party has no interests of its own. The party must constantly renew and readjust itself. First of all, it must renew its theoretical thinking, raise its intellectual capacity, and devise a correct platform, general line strategy, and tactics that are scientifically founded and in keeping with our country's practical reality. The party must itself be the embodiment of socialist democracy. To practise democacy within the party is a decisive condition for enhancing its fighting capacity and unity.

Party members have the right to discuss all questions of the country and the revolution and to participate in the elaboration of all party lines and policies. They are entitled to the democratic right to elect and stand for election, and to obtain information and raise questions about common party work. For all party organizations and members, criticism and self-criticism must become a regular practice in inner party life.

Party members are free to express their opinions and viewpoints within party organizations and have the right to express reservations. If necessary, these reservations may be put to discussion without any discrimination, but once the party has adopted a resolution the latter should be strictly executed. It is important to strictly abide by the principle of majority rule and hierarchic compliance. Specific regulations must be worked out to ensure strict implementation of the principle of democratic centralism, collective leadership, and individual responsibility.

The party considers the strengthening of close ties with the people as the yardstick of a genuine revolutionary party, and as a powerful source of strength of the party and people. The party leads the people, but the revolution is an undertaking of the people and by the people.

The closer the ties between the party and the people, the stronger the leading role of the party in society.

All party organizations from the central to the grassroots levels must regard mass mobilization work as one of their key activities. Cadres and party members must satisfactorily carry out mass mobilization work and enhance their sense of dedication to the people. They must stand on an equal footing with all other citizens regarding rights and obligations and enjoy no privileges and prerogatives whatsoever. Every party policy should stem from the people's interests, harmonize the various interests, and reconcile the citizens' rights with their obligations in order to enhance the people's strength and promote the cohesion and unity of the entire national community.

It is necessary to renew the content and methods of party leadership over state organs, mass organizations, and social institutions as well as to build and perfect the regulations governing the work relations between the party Central Committee and state bodies, the Fatherland Front organizations, and mass societies. Measures must be worked out to deal with abuse of power by party organizations. At the same, it is important not to belittle the party's leadership role. Efforts are needed to renew the party's organization and apparatus with a view to raising their quality and effectiveness in response to the requirements of the renewal of social life.

The party's grassroots organizations must periodically report publicly to the people about their work and listen to the people's comments on the activities of the party's organizations and cells, on recommendations for party membership, and on control of the work of the party members and leaders. The party base organizations and cells must preserve and enhance their prestige and that of their members by their own effective practical activities. Divisive and factionalist occurrences within the party should be checked. The leading bodies at all levels must represent the party's intelligence, competence and moral quality, and must have the ability to unite and rally all social forces. The congress of delegates as the highest leading organ at each level and in the entire party should be held in a truly democratic fashion, from the choice of delegates and the drafting and adoption of resolutions to the election of the various leading bodies.

Cadre work should be renewed. The contingent of cadres must prove their fine political quality, their loyalty to the interests of the fatherland and the people, and their knowledge and competence so as to fulfill their tasks in the new stage. It is important to find out and foster new talents and replace in time cadres of poor quality and competence. It is necessary to provide for planning and mechanisms to search out and train and foster able political leaders, scientists, cultural workers, managers, and businessmen for the country. Measures must be worked out to ensure the implementation of democratic principles and institutions in cadre work and to put an end to the tendency to impose cadres out of personal considerations. Efforts are needed to formulate and amend provisions and policies that base the appraisals of cadres on the quality and efficiency of their work. Plans must be worked out to promote morality and comradeship within the party, to bring into play the party's fine traditions and Uncle Ho's moral example, and to foster the communist ideal among party cades and members. Steps must be taken to devise a wholesome and simple way of life in which everyone harmonizes his own life with that of the common people. It is imperative to do away with mandarin-like behavior, the tendency to be cut off from reality and alienate oneself from the people, and such bad habits as glory seeking, money-grabbing, and vying with each other for mean purposes and dubious motives. It is important to fight uncompromisingly against individualism and opportunism under any disguise.

This platform is our banner of struggle for the victory of our country's socialist construction. It it the theoretical, ideological, and political basis that sets the overall direction of all party activities at the present time and in the forthcoming decades. The successful implementation of this platform shall lead our country forward to development, making it a prosperous socialist country.

The party calls on all party members, compatriots nationwide, and overseas Vietnamese to muster all their intellectual resources and energy for successful implementation of the objectives and tasks set forth in this platform.

NHAN DAN Urges Comment on Party Documents

BK0412162390 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 1 Dec 90

[NHAN DAN 1 December editorial: "Let's Provide Much Comment on the Seventh Party Congress Documents"]

[Text] Organizing campaigns to get public comment on the seventh party congress documents this time is an extensive, practical political movement, which further contributes to the flesh and blood relationship between the party and the people. This is also a good opportunity to unify the willpower and action of the whole party and the people in the renovation of socialism. That requires the campaigns not only being done in appropriate ways, which should be concentrated in the purpose and points clearly defined in the documents, but also demands the intensified leadership of the party committees, as well as expanded democracy, the encouragement of freedom of expression, and the creation of conditions for all party members and the public to provide opinions with constructive attitudes and with the highest degree of responsibility and conscientiousness.

The campaigns to get public views this time are being done within the party as well as among the public. Besides contributing views at party chapters and at grass-roots organizations, all members can provide opinions at seminars, workshops, by mail, by submissions to the party committee at all levels, including the party Central Committee, and express their opinions in the press and on the radio.

Among the public, at the sub-ward and village level there should be organization to obtain public views from non-party members, the people's councils, the executive committees of organizations, the Fatherland Front committees, intellectuals, writers, artists, newsmen, and so forth.

The editorial also points out that in order to get practical results, the first and important thing is to make all cadres, party members, and the people understand the party's viewpoints, direction, and policies mentioned in the drafts and to understand the central points of the documents.

The party committees at all levels should concentrate on leading, instructing, and intensifying the inspection work; respecting and setting good examples and widely spreading the experiences of organizations doing good work; and quickly discover and correct mismanagement in other places. Particularly important is the positive prevention of careless, ill, or pretentious behavior in the organization of the campaigns.

The campaigns should work hand-in-hand with other important tasks at the grass-roots level such as: solidifying the grass-roots party organizations, purifying party members, solving urgent socioeconomic problems, and preparing for the party congress at all levels.

Army Cadres Meet on CPV Congress Documents

BK0312075590 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Text] Implementing the party Central Committee Secretariat directive on soliciting public suggestions to Seventh Party Congress documents, the Standing Committee of the Military Commission of the Party Central Committee and the General Political Department held an All-Army Conference of Cadres from 23 to 29 November to study the contents of the Draft Platform for the Building of Socialism in the Transitional Period, the Draft Strategy of Socioeconomic Stabilization and Development in Vietnam Up To the Year 2000, and the basic contents of the Draft Report on Party Building and Amendment to the Party Constitution. The conference was attended by party secretaries, political directors, and propaganda, training and organization cadres of various military regions, armed branches and services, army corps, institutes and schools, and Defense Ministry agencies.

Commentary on Commitment to Troop Pullout

BK0512075490 Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] Of late, some sources said that Vietnam is no longer concerned about the Cambodian issue, and that Vietnam has reintroduced its troops to Cambodia. In this connection, here is our radio comment:

First of all, it is necessary to state that the foregoing sources have misrepresented facts. Over the past decades Vietnam has always been concerned about a peaceful solution to Cambodia. As stated by Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach at a Hanoi press conference jointly held with his Indonesian ocunterpart, Ali Alatas, in late November: A solution to the Cambodian issue is necessary to Vietnam, Cambodia, other countries in Southeast Asia, and the rest of the world.

That explains why for several years Vietnam has been making persistent efforts with countries concerned in finding a solution to Cambodia. Vietnam has withdrawn all its troops from Cambodia and so far has adhered to its commitment to troop pullout. A recent issue of the Singapore newspaper STRAITS TIMES quoted Eastern European diplomatic circles as denying the presence of Vietnamese soldiers in Cambodia these days. Vietnam has also welcomed all proposals by any countries in seeking a settlement of the Cambodian issue. In particular, Vietnam highly values the framework documents compiled by the five permanent members of the UN Security Council for a solution to Cambodia. Vietnam's goodwill and positive efforts have won worldwide acclaim.

This has been reflected by statements by, among others, Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas when he accompanied President Suharto to visit Vietnam in late November. Mr. Alatas highly appreciated the eforts made by Vietnam in seeking a solution to the Cambodian issue. He said: Vietnam, together with other countries, has spent much time and effort to solve the Cambodian problem. Vietnam always wants to closely cooperate with other Southeast Asian countries for an early settlement of the Cambodian issue. The Indonesian diplomat also took note of important contributions made by his Vietnamese counterpart during bilateral talks, contributions which should be considered by the five permanent members of the UN Security Council.

However, Vietnam has also persisted in its (?stand) regarding a Cambodian settlement. Vietnam holds that talks to turn the framework documents of the Big Five into a draft agreement should be undertaken by all members of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia. A basis for any solution to Cambodia must be respect for the sovereignty and interests of Cambodia. The internal affairs of Cambodian must be solved by Cambodians themselves. This is not only the question of protecting the interests of the Cambodian nation but that of Vietnam's principle. The Vietnamese foreign minister pointed out that Cambodia's sovereignty is not a merchandise for trade among other countries. He added that never Vietnam will [as heard] exploit this issue to seek aid for itself. With all its goodwill and principled stand, Vietnam has been and will be making consistent efforts to seek a solution to the Cambodian issue.

Australia

Foreign Minister Evans Defends Gulf Commitment

BK0512015090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0100 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Canberra, Dec 5 (AFP)—Australia's Foreign Minister Gareth Evans said Wednesday that war in the Persian Gulf would be brief, bloody and would cause many thousands of casualties. Speaking in a radio interview, Mr. Evans said it would be fought in a more difficult environment than any previous conflict.

"The massive build-up that is going on will, I think, ensure that it will be all over one way or another pretty quickly.

"That is not to say that it will be quick and clean as some armchair theorists have asserted—it will be brutal and it will be bloody," he said.

Mr. Evans' comments followed the announcement Tuesday by Prime Minister Bob Hawke that Australia is to step up its Gulf role, committing its warships already in the Gulf region to combat if called upon. In the event of failure by Iraq to bow to an ultimatum to withdraw from Kuwait, the Australian ships would move to a war footing to help defend U.S. aircraft carriers.

Mr. Evans defended the decision and rejected criticism that Australia was bowing to the United States in placing its ships under U.S. operational control. "We are responding to a United Nations request not a United States one," he said.

"We've decided to increase our potential contribution to the Gulf because we genuinely believe that preparing for the worst, preparing for war in a sense, is the best way of guaranteeing peace."

It has yet to be decided what role Australia would play in any peacekeeping force in the Gulf after the crisis was over.

"It would depend on the circumstances of any post-crisis settlement and one of the things that will have to be sorted out in any such settlement is the future military security arrangements and conceivably part of that may also be a continuation of sanctions," Mr. Evans said.

Views Increase in Role of Ships

BK0512064890 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] The foreign affairs minister, Senator Evans, says there is no move within the government to extend Australia's military involvement in the Persian Gulf. In a radio interview, Senator Evans said the government had virtually ruled out stepping up Australia's current commitment in the region. He said a fundamental change in circumstances, however, could prompt the government to consider making a greater commitment. Australia has two naval frigates in the region and is planning to send two more medical teams. He dismissed the prospect of an extended war in the Gulf, as [name of correspondent indistinct] reports:

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] Senator Evans said the massive buildup of international forces within the Gulf will ensure if war breaks out it will be over fairly quickly and not a long-drawn out affair. He says the decision to step up the role of Australian ships is based on the belief that preparing for war is the best way of guaranteeing peace, and he also believes it is in the best interests of the hostages.

[Evans] We could not allow our policy judgment to be driven by the presence of our people there, any more than could any of the other countries with hostages there. And I think that is really very well understood by our people in Baghdad and Kuwait. [end recording]

Release of Seven More Hostages 'Imminent'

BK0512082690 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0700 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] A former minister in Australia's Labor Government, Mr. Tom Uren, has announced in Baghdad that seven Australian hostages held in Iraq are to be released. The Australian Government says it believes the release of more hostages is imminent.

Mr. Uren made the statement in a joint announcement with Mr. (Eddy al-Ba'it), spokesman for an Australian-Arab delegation in Iraq.

In Canberra, a spokesman for the foreign affairs minister, Senator Evans, said he believed the names of those to be released would be announced by the hostages themselves.

Official Calls for More Control on Aid to PNG

BK3011074090 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] The Australian Auditor General has called for more stringent controls on Australian aid to Papua New Guinea [PNG]. A report by the auditor general has found that Australia's aid to Papua New Guinea has not led to any real improvements in living standards in that country.

Australia has given Papua New Guinea $4 billion in aid since independence in 1975, but the report says there has been little value for money while living standards remain lower than those in other developing countries in areas such as life expectancy, infant mortality, and adult literacy. The report says the main people to benefit from Australian aid have been those in the public sector. Very little relief has been provided to the most needy, with 75 percent of the population subsisting at poverty levels.

The report says Australia should speed up moves to replace the existing system of giving most aid unconditionally, with specific project grants.

Opposition on Labor Donation to Fiji Opposition

BK2811082390 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] The federal opposition spokesman on foreign affairs, Senator Robert Hill, has accused the ruling Labor Party of being naive and foolish by donating money to opposition parties in Fiji. Senator Hill said the donation of Australian $15,000 to Fiji's opposition coalition amounted to interference in the country's domestic affairs.

He said there would be concern in the region that the foreign affairs minister, Senator Gareth Evans, had described his party's donation as perfectly appropriate and almost routine.

Minister Lobbies PRC To Increase Wool Imports

BK0112091490 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 1 Dec 90

[Text] Australia's minister for primary industries and energy, Mr. John Kerin, has been lobbying senior Chinese Government officials in Beijing in an attempt to convince the Chinese to increase their purchases of Australian wool. China's wool imports have dropped sharply because of an official austerity campaign and weak domestic demands for the fiber.

Mr. Kerin, who arrived in Beijing on Thursday, has had meetings with top officials of the China National Textile Import and Export Corporation and the Chinese textiles minister Mr. Wu Wenying. No details of the talks have been released.

Hawke Dismisses Leadership Speculation

BK2811130890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1053 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Perth, Australia, Nov 28 (AFP)—Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke dismissed here Wednesday speculation he would resign and said he would continue to lead the ruling Labor Party into the next election.

Mr. Hawke attempted to play down a major opinion poll published Wednesday, which showed support for his government was at an all-time low. The Morgan Gallup poll, published in the weekly news magazine THE BULLETIN, showed support for the government was 32 per cent, 18 percentage points behind the conservative opposition.

Mr. Hawke's personal standing was at a record low of 33 per cent.

The prime minister said he intended to do "absolutely nothing" in reaction to the polls and the latest round of speculation they prompted about his tenure as leader.

"It's a long way to the next election, I've just won the fourth one and by the time we go to the next we'll be ready to win that," he said.

Senior ministers backed Mr. Hawke in hosing down speculation that Treasurer Paul Keating may soon take over. Health Minister Brian Howe, who controls the party's left-wing faction, said the combination of Mr. Hawke and Mr. Keating was powerful and the Labor Party wanted that team to continue.

Mr. Howe said Mr. Hawke had the party's loyalty and "there will be no skullduggery" about his leadership.

Social Security Minister Graham Richardson, who controls the right-wing, said "dogs have been barking" for the last few years about the leadership and "the current set of dogs are perplexing me."

Foreign Affairs Minister Gareth Evans said: "The prime minister has made it perfectly clear he will contest the next election and there's ... nothing to add to that."

Labor Party Views Union Role in Policy-Making

BK2811082590 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] The national secretary of the Australian Labor Party, Mr. Bob Hawke, had denied that the party wants to weaken its traditional ties to the country's union movement. However, he said the party has to adjust its thinking on the place of trade unions in the party. He was commenting on reports that a party committee was considering proposals to reduce the proportion of union delegates at the party's policy-making conference from 60 percent to 40 percent.

While denying that the party wants to reduce the role of unions, Mr. Hawke says it must examine the fact that coverage of the work force by its affiliated unions had been declining.

Imports Cause Concern Under Current Deficit

BK0412081590 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Australia's current account deficit has blown out in October to $1.67 thousand million. Finance reporter Phillip Lasker said although the result was well within market expectations, the level of imports continues to cause concern.

[Begin Lasker recording] Today's figures suggest the slowing economy has not had a dramatic effect on import growth. In seasonally adjusted terms, imports were up two percent because of transport purchases such as road equipment and an LNG [Liquified Natural Gas] tanker. Machinery and oil imports also picked up strongly. Exports jumped five percent, due mainly to rises in cereals, wheat, and commodities. Wool continued its slide. The reserve bank board is meeting today to consider interest rates. This figure will raise doubts about the wisdom of further interest rate cuts. [end recording]

Quarterly Figures Indicate Economy in Recession

BK2811082790 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Figures just released have heightened fears that tomorrow's national accounts will confirm Australia is in a recession. Finance reporter Philip Lasker:

[Begin Lasker recording] The quarterly balance of payment figures give a more detailed account of exports and imports. They showed that imports rose a strong eight percent during the September quarter, a large proportion were consumption goods, a result which would be of some concern to authorities.

Exports were flat, it means that freight situation will be a negative for economic growth, increasing the chances of having a recession confirmed in tomorrow's national accounts.

Foreign debt figures were also released today. They show debt continued to rise at the end of September, and foreign debts stood at $124.5 billion, up $2 billion on the previous quarter. [end recording]

International Agreement for Optical Fiber Cable

BK0512060690 Hong Kong AFP in English 0549 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Canberra, Dec 5 (AFP)—Australia's International Communications Network OTC Ltd. Wednesday signed an agreement with 35 other telecommunications carriers to build the world's longest undersea optical fibre cable system.

The 800 million dollar (620 million U.S.) cable, to be built over the next four years, will stretch more than 16,000 kilometres (10,000 miles), linking Sydney with Auckland, New Zealand, and Hawaii and Guam in the Pacific.

OTC will be the biggest shareholder in the South Pacific network that will join an optical fibre network in the North Pacific, forming a loop connecting the Pacific rim nations. Other companies involved include TNI of New Zealand, KDD of Japan and AT&T of the United States.

Prime Minister Bob Hawke said at the signing ceremony here that the telecommunications loop would be of enormous economic significance to the region and its interaction with the rest of the world. The link would also provide a conduit for a new privately-owned telecommunications company to compete under new Australian legislation with a merged Telecom and OTC, Mr. Hawke said.

The South Pacific network cable will be able to handle more than 30,000 simultaneous telephone conversations.

Alcatel TCC (Tasman Cable Company) has been awarded contracts worth about 500 million dollars (387 million U.S.) to manufacture and supply much of the submarine cable.

Fiji

Desire To Establish Air Links With SEA Noted

BK0212084090 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Text] The interim government in Fiji is reportedly anxious to establish air links with South East Asian [SEA] countries to foster trade and tourism. Fiji's deputy secretary for tourism and civil aviation, (Mr. Balram), told the Fiji Trade Review, that the country's own flag carrier Air Pacific was itself exploring prospects of flying to Seoul, Taipei, Kuala Lumpur, and Hong Kong.

He recalled that Air Pacific and Malaysian Airlines had already agreed to grant access to each other's facilities. Fiji's present direct air links are with Australia, New Zealand, Japan, and the United States. (Mr. Balram) said the government had approved 25 new hotel projects and expected visitor arrivals to rise from 270,000 this year to 400,000 by 1995.

New Zealand

Anti-Gulf War Protest Disrupts Parliament

BK0512095890 Hong Kong AFP in English 0947 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Wellington, Dec 5 (AFP)—Several anti-war activists, including a man who covered himself in symbolic blood, disrupted Parliament on Wednesday with a protest against New Zealand's involvement in the Gulf crisis.

A man splashed himself with what appeared to be blood and jumped four meters (12 feet) from the public gallery onto the debating chamber floor as Foreign Minister Don McKinnon was speaking.

At the same time three women in the public gallery climbed into white plastic bags to symbolise what they said would be the body bags coming home from the Gulf.

They all chanted anti-war slogans, and the women in bags lay across the seats while two other women draped a cloth banner that read, "send MPs to fight in Gulf," over the gallery's ledge.

The man was eventually overpowered by a number of government members of Parliament and dragged out of the chamber by Police Minister John Banks.

New Zealand decided Monday to send several transport aircraft and a military medical team to the multinational forces in the Gulf.

Solomon Islands

Accord Signed With France on Economic Zones

BK2811151690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1424 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Noumea, Nov 28 (AFP)—France and the Solomon Islands have signed an accord delineating their respective 200 miles (320 kilometres) exclusive economic zones, official sources said here Wednesday.

The agreement draws up "in a precise and equitable fashion the maritime areas in which the two states will exercise their respective sovereignty" and "reinforces the good-neighbourly and friendly relations between France and the Solomon Islands, the sources said.

France's Ambassador to Port Moresby Claude Maynot, Governor Designate of New Caledonia Jacques Iekawe and Solomon Islands' Foreign Minister Sir Peter Keni Lorea signed the accord in Honiara, Solomon Islands.

Vanuatu is now the only country that has not signed a similar accord with France, due mainly to a long standing dispute over claims to two islands, Hunter and Matthew, southeast of New Caledonia.